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GEM READER SOUNDS STARK WARNING OVER ROUNDAABOUT DANGER 'MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOMEONE IS KILLED...'

GEM reader and
Broadlands
resident, Neil
Byrne, has made
this shocking
prediction.

Mr Byrne contacted
The GEM with a litany of
near-misses and crashes
he has witnessed over
recent years - with a
number in the last few
weeks - at the
Broadlands roundabout
on the A48.

"Just a few weeks ago,
a farm trailer overturned
on to road furniture and
the pavement, and a few
months ago, a car went
straight over the
pavement and into the
trees," said Mr Byrne,
who, like many others
walks his dog in that area
and uses the route to
commute.

by **ANDY
JOHNSTONE**

"These accidents have
all involved vehicles that
have ended up on, or
have driven straight over,
the adjacent pedestrian
and cycle pavements."

Mr Byrne said that
two years ago, a car
struck the roundabout
and ended up on the
pavement upside down
with the occupants
requiring hospitalisation.
"Again, the other night
a car ended up missing
the roundabout and
crossing the pavement
and went 50ft in to the
trees," said Mr Byrne.

He felt, however, that
not all accidents are
reported and said "...the
statistics may not reflect
the real situation."

Work on this stretch of

the A48 was carried out
during 2016.

Mr Byrne said: "I am
disappointed after the
works were carried that
no road-calming
measures were
introduced on the
approaches to this
roundabout - namely a
reduction in the speed
limit and rumble strips,
to further encourage
drivers to reduce their
speed."

He went on to say that
he has witnessed many
vehicles approaching the
roundabout at speeds, he
estimates, in excess of
70mph.

"At that sort of speed,
the drivers have had
difficulty controlling
their vehicles when
negotiating the
roundabout."

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 30)



ABOVE:
West Park Primary School pupils
get a message out on their bikes.
(SEE STORY ON PAGE 6).

Police take a hard line over a community centre's drinks licence

**SOUTH Wales Police have
objected to an application for
an alcohol licence, submitted
by a community centre in
Betws.**

In their letter of objection, the
police say that they prefer to have a
"light touch" with such applications,
and admit they are taking a "rare
stance".

The Betws Life Centre, which has
a library, hall and cafe, is now
managed by the NSA Afan
Community Group, which has
applied for a licence to sell alcohol
from 12 noon until midnight, seven
days a week.

The police, however, say it would
have a "negative impact" on the
village.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 30)

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Eyes up for the sky at night in Pencoed



Members of the public viewing the heavens from Pencoed School.

THE rain finally let up and Bridgend Astro-nomical Society held its promised public observation session in the grounds of Pencoed School on the evening of Saturday, March 25.

Members brought

along a variety of astronomical telescopes and binoculars to demonstrate planets, stars and galaxies to those who came along.

BAS will meet at 7.30pm on Friday, April 13 at Pyle Church Hall. Margaret Collins of Swansea Astronomical Society will give a talk on 'Harvard's Lady Computers - The Women who Classified the Stars. *More on*

www.bridgendastronomicalsociety.co.uk

What's up? It's a good month for getting out those ordinary binoculars with a full moon on the night of April 11 and Jupiter rising a few days earlier on April 7. Jupiter rises around sunset and at a distance of 666 million km or 37 light minutes, it will be at its nearest and brightest on April 8.

Binoculars will clearly show the four Galilean moons - Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto (named after the lovers of Zeus) - strung out along a line passing through the planet's equator (one or more may be hidden behind Jupiter's bulk, however, depending on when you look). These moons were first seen by Galileo Galilei in January 1610.

On April 1, Mercury reaches nearly 20 degrees east of the sun in the western evening sky. The view of this elusive planet should be pretty good from our northern latitude.

Saturn grows gradually brighter through the month rising after midnight in Sagittarius.

The moon is nearby on April 16 and 17. Look out for the Lyrid meteors on April 22, 23 early in the night when the moon is out of the way.

Report by Norman Lloyd

'ENERGY IN FOCUS' AT PORTHCAWL

Sustainable Wales will hold a public meeting at the Grand Pavilion (Stage door) at 7.30pm on Thursday, April 6 and council candidates are being urged to attend.

The event will include guest speakers from Community Energy Wales, RENEW Wales, Cardiff University, IWA-Institute Welsh Affairs, and Bridgend Council.

Organiser, Margaret Minihinnick, said: "Local energy will be a big part of our future. Look around, there are wind turbines and solar panels everywhere. The world is changing and renewable energy helping drive that change. Wales and the UK lag far behind our

European neighbours and some states in the USA regarding local energy production.

"The meeting is being organised to discuss how some communities are taking back control of their energy systems and thus consider the potential of Porthcawl and Bridgend establishing community owned local renewable energy companies.

"A step towards local economic renewal."

The scene will be set by a viewing of the film *Shine a Light* which suggests that more support 'should be forthcoming'. The Porthcawl film was premiered in Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff and was produced and directed by Sustainable Wales and supported by Community Energy Wales.



Care home residents mark St Patrick's Day



St Patrick's Day was celebrated in style.

RESIDENTS at RMBI care home Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court in Porthcawl marked St Patrick's Day with an Irish jig on March 17.

Care support worker Lily O'Brien, who is Irish, performed an Irish dance for residents at the care home to help mark the occasion.

Business coordinator Rebecca Timms said: "At Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court, we regularly organise themed activities and events that tie in with local and national traditions. It brings our residents together and makes every day a little different."

AFTERNOON TEA BENEFITS CHARITY



ON March 22, Bridgend Soroptimists held an afternoon tea celebration at Coed-y-Mwstwr Hotel, when president Sue presented a cheque for £1,400 to Mags Griffiths, general manager of Y Bont.

New chair for local Tory party

DAVID TC DAVIES MP was the first to congratulate Newcastle Ward Town councillor, Carolyn Webster on her recent election to be the chairman of Bridgend Conservative Association.

Carolyn Webster succeeded Coun Ken Watts who handed over the reins during the Bridgend Conservative Association's AGM, held last week.

Coun Webster, a mother of two, said: "I look forward to engaging more local young people in Conservative politics. We live in a dynamic and beautiful part of the country, with world leading local industry and tourist hotspots. Politics affects all these things and more."

David Davies, a previous Conservative candidate for the Bridgend constituency and currently the MP for Monmouth, was in Porthcawl to speak to party members, including Suzy Davies AM, during a week in which he was caught up in the terrorist attack in Parliament.

The association's members observed a minute's silence in memory of PC Keith Palmer, killed in the line of duty and three other members of the public murdered on Westminster Bridge.

On behalf of Y Bont, Ms Griffiths expressed her delight in accepting the cheque which represents a much needed helping hand in the continuing operation of the nursery, which depends heavily on public support.

Bridgend Soroptimists have pledged their ongoing support in the coming year with a further donation of funds and fundraising events staged periodically at Y Bont.

EB

Join BHF's bike ride!

I AM calling on your readers to join the fight against heart disease by signing up to the British Heart Foundation's (BHF) 54-mile London to Brighton Bike Ride on June 18.

As Europe's oldest charity bike ride, the event attracts tens of thousands of participants from all corners of the UK each year, including people from Wales.

With 12 weeks to go to the event, we are only halfway to raising our target of £3 million to fund life saving heart research so we are encouraging as many people to sign up as possible.

I am also pleased to say that for the first time in the event's history, the use of electronic bikes will be permitted this year. I hope this will encourage more riders of all cycling abilities to get in the saddle and take on the challenge.

Our London to Brighton Bike Ride is an achievable challenge for all cyclists; from the newbies to the experienced; the cautious to the confident, the fast to the

fall behinds and both the solo riders and the team players.

Heart and circulatory disease still kills one in four and affects 7 million people in the UK. In Wales alone around 9,000 people die each year because of it, tearing families apart. The BHF will continue fighting against these devastating conditions until we live in a world where nobody dies prematurely because of them.

The event has been running for over 40 years now and in that time 814,000 cyclists have raised over £65 million for our life saving research.

Thanks to our research, huge progress has been made in saving lives, and the number of deaths from heart and circulatory disease in the UK has halved since the 1960s. But there is still much more we urgently need to do, which is why I'd like to urge readers to join the fight today.

You can easily sign up for the London to Brighton Bike Ride, sponsored by Tesco and Jaffa, by visiting bhf.org.uk/L2B. **Shonali Rodrigues, Head of Events at the British Heart Foundation.**

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP, Cardiff CF24 5HJ



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Porthcawl has RNLI's busiest inshore crew

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE lifeboat stations at Porthcawl and Penarth have been singled out in the Welsh RNLI's review of the year.

Porthcawl proved to be the busiest in one key aspect, while Penarth rescued the most people.

Porthcawl RNLI crew, who launched 80 times and rescued 45 people, were again Wales' busiest inshore lifeboat station team in 2016 in terms of callouts.

Penarth RNLI, which recently closed a successful £52,000 fundraising appeal for a new D class lifeboat, rescued more people than any other station across Wales, at 109.

Seven of those were classed as lives saved. Their number of launches also rose significantly to 74, compared with 46 in 2015.

The Mumbles RNLI, which has an all-weather and inshore lifeboat, had the highest number of launches for a second year in succession, although their total dropped from 98 to 83. They also rescued 95



Porthcawl RNLI, pictured receiving a donation from Beddau's 'Taffy Anglers' group.

people.

The figures were revealed as the RNLI issued a safety warning ahead of the Easter holidays. The figures showed that more than 1,350 people found themselves in danger on the coastline of south Wales last year.

The charity's lifeguards, working on 22 beaches from Freshwater West to Whitmore Bay, Barry, responded to 868 incidents and rescued or assisted 1,007 people.

Matt Crofts, RNLI lifesaving manager, said: "Once again we are extremely grateful for the dedication shown by our lifesavers across Wales in 2016.

"Our annual Respect The Water drowning

prevention campaign will be launching for 2017 soon and we urge people to give the water the healthy respect it deserves.

"While we will always answer the call for help, everyone within the RNLI would like to see people thinking about their safer at the coast."

Across the whole of Wales' 30 RNLI stations, there was an increase of 11 per cent on lifeboats launches last year, with crews going to sea on rescue callouts 1,175 times. The number of people rescued was also up 13 per cent to 1,162. A total of 73 lives were saved.

Matt Crofts added: "We're calling on anyone visiting the coast

to make safety a priority, whether that means wearing a lifejacket, checking their vessel before they go afloat, knowing they should call 999 and ask for the Coastguard in the event of an emergency, checking the tide times before they set out, or staying away from cliff edges and unstable coastal paths."

All-Wales figures for RNLI lifeguards show they responded to 1,271 incidents and rescued or assisted 1,436 people, up on the 2015 figures.

RNLI lifeguards were stationed at 39 beaches across Wales in 2016 – more than ever before – with new safety services launched at Three Cliffs Bay on Gower, four beaches in Porthcawl

HI TECH CAMERA SHOULD HELP PORTHCAWL RNLI

PORTHCAWL RNLI have joined up with a Swansea company to make available a 24-hour webcam of sea conditions in the area.

Using surveillance technology from Swansea-based PC1 and Axis Communications, they hope to educate the public by making them aware of dangerous conditions.

RNLI statistics for 2015 show that 44.4 per cent of lifeboat launches in 2015 were due to persons in distress on surfboards, kayaks or similar.

The camera points directly at one of Porthcawl's highest risk areas – the pier. During storms and rough weather conditions, visitors are in danger of being swept out to sea.

Ian Stroud, retired Deputy Launch Authority at Porthcawl RNLI, said: "One of the most significant tasks a

lifeboat station must undertake is observing sea conditions to make judgements on the equipment lifeboat operators will need.

"We wanted a view of the pier as it is such an important landmark. This is viewable by members of the public, who can alert the lifeboat station if they see someone in distress."

Graham Thomas, IT & Online Project Manager at PC1, states, "We installed a weather station and connected the installation to YouTube, allowing the public and lifeboat staff to view real-time images and accurate weather reports - including tide times.

"The station will soon receive a superfast fibre connection, allowing for a further upgrade of the system to take full advantage of the camera's HD capabilities. "We can then look at running an additional camera; one looking at the pier and another focussing on the coastal defence."

Porthcawl RNLI believe that the cameras will 'pay for themselves' if just a small number of unnecessary callouts are prevented, by people deciding not to venture out to sea after checking the video link.

Watch the live stream from Porthcawl pier: <http://www.porthcawl-lifeboat.co.uk/live-streaming/>

Bridgend Lion's donation to Y Bont

LAST week's item in The GEM about a donation from the Bridgend Lions to Y Bont, the local children's charity, did not include the amount.

The cheque handed over was for £1,005.22.

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THREE CHOIRS ENTHRAL IN CONCERT FOR ST JOHN'S HOUSE (BRIDGEND) TRUST



Soloist Nancy Morcom



The Bridgend Choir's Ryan Wood, Stephanie Bailey and Scott Williams.

Commons praise for rehabilitation work at the Parc Prison

MADELINE MOON MP spoke in the Second Reading of the Prisons and Courts Bill highlighting the 'world-class suite of rehabilitation interventions' at Parc Prison in Bridgend.

One of the key aims of the Bill is the "reform of offenders".

The Labour MP for Bridgend urged the Secretary of State in the Commons to visit Parc to see the excellent work taking place to reduce reoffending.

The prison has taken

an innovative approach to rehabilitation work with families. The Invisible Walls Wales programme has transformed the way family engagement takes place in the prison, with 69 per cent of prisoners receiving regular family contact at Parc compared to 48 per cent across the rest of the prison estate.

During the Second Reading of the Bill, Mrs Moon said: "Parc represents a global hub of excellence, especially given that we are expecting evidence to show that the reoffending rate among 80 high-risk families is to reduce to about 10 per cent."

A RECENT Three Choirs concert hosted by Bridgend Male Choir, featured Pontyclun-based Vocelle Ladies Choir and the Oldcastle Primary School Choir.

The concert was in support of the St John's House Trust (Bridgend) who are committed to purchasing St John's House, Newcastle Hill, Bridgend as a focal point for the local community.

The male choir entertained with a diversity in content and sound under the baton of musical director, Ryan Wood and support team of Stephanie Bailey (piano) and Scott Williams (organ).

They opened the evening with the popular and inspirational hymns 'Llanfair' and 'Morte Criste' and, the late Ryan Davies' ballad, 'Pan fo'r Nos yn Hir'. These were followed by traditional spirituals 'Ride the Chariot', 'My Lord what a Morning' and the ever popular, 'American Trilogy'.

Vocelle Ladies Choir, under the direction of Meryn Williams, demonstrated their pedigree throughout the evening with the Serbian Gypsy Dance 'Niska Banja', contrasting well with the well known 'Ar Lan y Mor' and the equally moving spiritual 'I'm gonna Sing 'Til

the Spirit moves in my Heart'.

Tucked in between the senior choirs were the Oldcastle youngsters, who were a credit to both their school and their music teacher, Charlotte Boughton.

The youngsters' highlight was the singing of 'Naughty' from Roald Dahl's *Matilda*, and a special mention must go to Nancy for her solo performance.

The second half saw songs from the musicals with Peter Morgan's narration of the Gettysburg Address preceding the male choir's 'Tell my Father' (a story of a father and son relationship at the American Civil War) followed by 'Bring him Home' and a feisty 'Rhythm of Life'.

Vocelle followed these with renditions of 'Money, Money, Money' and 'Aquarius'. Mary's Stuart's Prayer', showed Vocelle's complete versatility with a change of style and tempo, was of the highest order, as was the solo performed by Ann Dunston.

Bridgend Male Choir's final contribution included the moving hymn 'Gwahoddiaid', and the two contrasting pieces 'What would I do without my Music' and 'Christus Salvator'.

This concert showcased the choirs at their best, all raising the roof with moving spiritual 'I'm gonna Sing 'Til 'Tydi a Roddaist' as the finale.

MP backs Samaritans' railway suicide watch



Chris Elmore, MP.

OGMORE MP Chris Elmore joined the Bridgend-based Samaritans in promoting suicide prevention on the transport network this week.

Currently, 13,000 rail staff have received training through a programme which aims to help them prepare for, and recognise, when and how they can intervene if they may be experiencing suicidal thoughts.

The Ogmogre MP said: "It's important we promote suicide prevention and indeed make sure staff are trained in spotting the suicidal thoughts. I'm pleased to support the Samaritans in their work with workplaces in skilling staff."

"Nobody wants to be suicidal and the more of us who are skilled in knowing the signs the more people can, hopefully, be helped."

A Kenfig Hill charity shop is having a spring sale, with 50 per cent off all stock from April 3 - 13.

Theo's Charity and Coffee Shop in Bridge Street is wholly volunteer run and stocks adult clothing for men and women, children's clothes, shoes, handbags, crockery, ornaments, bedding, curtains, baby equipment, toys, jewellery and books.

A spokeswoman said: "At the rear of the shop is a small community space and coffee shop, so why not call in to bag a bargain or just meet up with friends to have a coffee?"

Maesteg dancer (18) just misses out in BBC4 young dancer competition

AN 18-year-old dancer from Maesteg just missed out on BBC 4 last Friday (March 24) in the final of a national dance competition.

Kate Morris made the final in the 'street dance' category of the 'BBC Young Dancer' competition, but was pipped by a contestant from the same street dance stable, based in Cardiff.

Kate developed her dance skills through a Cardiff dance, Jukebox Collective, and has trained with them from the age of nine.

Two more of the finalists also trained in Cardiff, Jodelle Douglas, 21, originally from Bristol, and Harry Barnes, 20, from the Wirral.

It was Jodelle who was declared the winner.

The creative director of Jukebox Collective, Liara Barussi, trained and mentored all three artists.

She said: "I was absolutely delighted that Kate, Jodelle and Harry were selected for the Street Dance finals of BBC Young Dancer 2017."

"It's really great to see hip hop dance being a central part of BBC Young Dancer."

Kate Morris said: "Dance has been a huge influence in my life so far."



"I feel very free when dancing, and I find it a hugely creative way of expressing my emotions and state of mind."

"Dance has helped me grow as a person. I feel so privileged to be part of BBC Young Dancer and within street dance, as a very male-dominated discipline, am incredibly proud to be the only female street dance category finalist this year."

The four categories are: Ballet, Contemporary, South Asian Dance and Street Dance.

The winner from each category and up to two wild cards will earn a place in the Grand Final at Sadler's Wells, which will be televised live on BBC Two on Saturday, April 22.

WWF-Cymru Earth Hour celebration at the Senedd

AM Huw Irranca-Davies AM and Assembly colleagues joined WWF Cymru representatives at the Senedd - to celebrate the tenth WWF - Cymru Earth Hour recently.

Earth Hour took place at 8.30pm on Saturday, March 25, across the globe and beyond.

The Welsh arm of the global conservation charity has been busy collecting messages from across Wales and is supported by the Arts Council of Wales and the players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

The event also included a special 'Message in a Bottle' campaign, demonstrating the strength of feeling across Wales for climate change action. A specially-commissioned 8m 'Message in a



Huw Irranca-Davies AM at the Senedd.

Bottle' sculpture by artist Lulu Quinn, made from hundreds of unwanted and used bottles symbolising the gathered messages, called on Welsh politicians to take urgent national and global action on climate change.

The Ogmogre AM, a former UK Government environment minister, said: "Climate change affects us all, and I'm happy to have supported this campaign. Communities we call home and our incredible nature are at risk, and WWF Cymru are working hard in tackling climate change through the reduction of our emissions."

"Reading the messages that people have written brings home the strength of feeling out there, and as Welsh politicians we must respond accordingly."

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MP Madeleine Moon (fourth on right) joined Porthcawl Fairtrade Group for the breakfast event.

MP VISITS PORTHCAWL FAIRTRADE GROUP

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon was invited to join Porthcawl Fairtrade Group recently to mark Fairtrade Fortnight with a breakfast at Trinity Church Hall.

Fairtrade Fortnight is an annual event which supports the farmers and workers who grow our food in the developing

countries.

Mrs Moon said: "I joined around 30 people at Trinity for a delicious breakfast on Friday morning last week. This was a great show of support for Fairtrade goods from the local community."

"We all need to think about the food that arrives in our shops and what poor conditions the farmers and workers in developing countries have worked in to

provide us with the foods that we now depend on."

"However hard they work, they don't receive the pay they deserve and we need all to be working towards changing that."

"Fairtrade Fortnight highlights these issues and I would urge everyone to buy more Fairtrade products to help end exploitation."

Pencoed Interact Club cheque will go to Urdd



Left to right: Rotarian Dr Graham Hapgood, Interact Club member Ellie Priddy, Interact president Chloe Jones, Welsh teachers Elizabeth Sayers, David Owens.

THE Interact Club of Pencoed Comprehensive School, which is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bridgend, presented a cheque for £250 to their Welsh language school teachers.

The funds, which have been raised by the members of the Interact Club, are to be used to assist the funding of the Urdd National Eisteddfod to be held at the Bridgend College, Pencoed Campus, between May 29 and June 3.

The Interact club brings together young people aged 12-18 to

develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self. Interact gives students the chance to make a real difference while having fun.

They organise at least two projects every year, one that helps their school or community and one that promotes the international understanding. The Rotary Club sponsors mentors and guides (Interactors) as they carry out projects and develop leadership skills. If you are interested in joining, or wish to find more about Rotary and/or Interact, contact www.rotary.org or www.rotarybridgend.org.uk or the secretary of the Rotary Club of Bridgend on 01656 652181.

MAESTEG PACT

SARN/BRYNCOCH PACT on Monday, April 3 at Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.

LLANGEINOR PACT on Wednesday, April 12 at the Richard Price Centre at 5.30pm.

OGMORE VALE/NANTYMOEL PACT on Wednesday, April 12 at Dinam Close Sheltered Accommodation at 7pm.

BETTWS PACT on Thursday, April 20 at Bettws Life Centre at 2pm.

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Bridgend College students bloom at RHS Flower Show



Bridgend College students will be exhibiting at the RHS Flower Show, Cardiff.

STUDENTS from Bridgend College are set to recreate a snapshot of British medieval monastic life at this year's RHS Flower Show Cardiff, organised by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in partnership with Cardiff Council, which takes place in the city's Bute Park from April 7-9.

The annual floral spectacular will embrace Wales' 'Year of Legends 2017' with a host of themed gardens and features to spark the imagination.

The garden was designed by five students studying HND Landscape Construction and Garden Design at the college, who will be graded on the

quality of their show garden as part of the course.

Encouraging visitors to 'embrace' this year's 'magical, mystical theme', showgoers are set to experience the rich history of Welsh legends and their connection to the surrounding landscape.

Fun for all the family, little ones can enjoy tree climbing, check out the schools' wheelbarrow competition, get up close and personal with giant wicker bug sculptures, as well as live demonstrations and workshops.

Den building is also on the agenda and youngsters will have the chance to create wood cookie name tag necklaces which they can decorate and take home.

Bristol Zoo will also be on site to entertain with its plant-animal association game.

The message goes out to visitors... 'Porthcawl loves bikes!'

PORTHCAWL loves bikes... and it's hoped that even more cyclists will soon love Porthcawl!

A number of improvements have been made that should make it easier and safer to cycle along the seafront, while new 'Porthcawl loves bikes' stencils can be spotted along the route to welcome visitors on two wheels.

Footways along the esplanade and coastline have been widened and new 'tactile paving' has been installed, while there has also been some resurfacing, new signage, and drainage improvements.

New ornamental railings have also been installed next to Cosy Corner, and four sets of bike racks have been placed along the seafront. The improvements mean that a shared cycle and pedestrian route now runs all the way from Rest Bay to Sandy Bay.

The works were carried out by Bridgend Council Borough Council using £300,000 awarded from the Coastal Communities Fund.

The seafront cycle route is already being put to good use by local schoolchildren taking part in The Big Pedal, an annual event which challenges youngsters across the country to



Pupils from nearby Newton and West Park primary schools encouraging sea front cycling in Porthcawl.

choose a more active form of travel by either cycling or scooting to school.

Big Pedal participants from the nearby West Park and Newton primary schools came together earlier this week for a special launch event on the promenade to encourage seafront cycling in Porthcawl.

West Park Primary School teacher Mrs Kiernan said: "We promote active travel at West Park by encouraging children to walk, cycle or scooter to school. This new cycle path will encourage

families to be more active since it will enable them to cycle safely all the way along Porthcawl's beautiful coastline."

The Coastal Communities Fund is funded by the Government with income

from the Crown Estate's marine assets. It is delivered by the Big Lottery Fund on behalf of UK Government and the Welsh Government, and seeks to help boost the economy of coastal communities across the UK.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgangem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Litter pickers join forces for 'Spring Clean Cymru'



Volunteers come together for Spring Clean Cymru in Caerau.

THE hillside above Caerau is looking cleaner and brighter – after a major litter-pick was part of Keep Wales Tidy's Spring Clean Cymru campaign.

A team of volunteers removed more than two tonnes of waste from the stream, the play area and beyond the verges around Caerau Park, in an area of great natural beauty.

Valleys to Coast (V2C) staff were supported by members of the Maesteg Fire Service and residents from the area.

The first-ever Spring Clean Cymru campaign was part of the Great British Spring Clean, supported by TV naturalist and writer Steve Backshall. Across the UK, up to half a million people have been out and about as part of a wider campaign to rid the country of litter.

Rachel Morton from V2C said: "We had such a great day cleaning up the mountain side, and the volunteers loved it. V2C runs year-round volunteer events to help keep our communities and the environment clean, and appreciate the partnership with Keep Wales Tidy, who are the 'environmental champions'."

For more information on Keep Wales Tidy activities in Bridgend, contact project officer Brian Jones on 07824 504819.

The 'Iron Horses' raise vital funds for Wales Air Ambulance



The cheque is handed over. Photo by GERALD DODD.

A presentation was held at Heol-y-Cyw Social Club on Tuesday, March 21, from the Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society (GIHVS) to Wales Air Ambulance.

After an update on current operations from Catrin Hall (Wales Air Ambulance), she received a cheque for £1,000 raised at the January tractor run and Christmas raffles.

Catrin informed members that the total was now more than £7,000 from the GIHVS.

Chairman Richard Rees, commented: "Yet again, without support from tractor and 4x4s enthusiasts this type of event would be a non-starter."

He went on to express his thanks to the Anthony family, Cwm Risca Farm, for its continued support, the Evans family of Coney Beach for access to Salt Lake, the public, which donate and, of course, the members who do all the organising and running of the event.

It would be good to hit £10,000 by 2020. Thank you all. **DK**

James Taylor Quartet to open the Porthcawl Jazz Festival



The James Taylor Quartet.

THE 2017 Porthcawl Jazz Festival opens on Friday, April 7, with a concert by The James Taylor Quartet (JTQ) at the Porthcawl Grand Pavilion.

JTQ – led by the eponymous Hammond organ virtuoso – performs a mix of jazz funk, fusion and

soul, and joins other illustrious names, such as Cleo Laine, Johnny Dankworth, Humphrey Lyttelton and Buddy Greco, who have played at the festival in its 18 years.

All other performances will take place throughout the weekend of April 8 and 9, at the Hi-Tide Inn in Porthcawl.

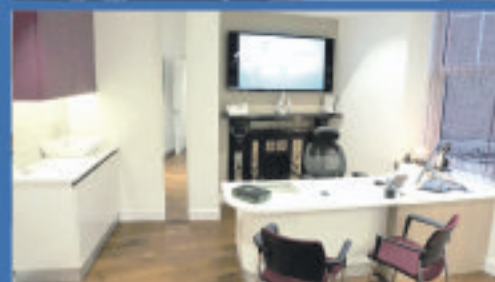
The overall programme will, said a spokesperson, "...present a carefully balanced mix of favourite festival artists and exciting new bands".

A variety of tickets is available, including ones specifically for the JTQ concert.

Full information on the festival can be found at www.porthcawl-jazz-festival.com or from the information and ticket sales line 01656 773389.

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Porthcawl Vicar joins local 'team'

A NEW Team Vicar is joining the Rectorial Benefice of Llantwit Major.

The Rev Craig Vaughan takes over from the Rev Anthony Beer who left last year after three years in the post.

He moves there from Newton Nottage, Porthcawl where he has been assistant curate for nearly five years since being ordained.

Although based in Wick at St James' Church, he was licensed for the nine churches in the benefice at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Monday, March 27, by the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne.

During his time in Newton Nottage, Craig organised a rugby festival in the run up to the World Cup involving dozens of local schoolchildren and star appearances from former Welsh rugby stars including Gareth Edwards.

Before training for ministry, Craig, 46, who is married with three children, worked as a car sprayer in garages in Pyle and Llandow.

He gave it up to study full-time for three years at St Michael's College, Cardiff, which included doing a degree in Theology.

He grew up on a farm



The Rev Craig Vaughan.

in Colwinston where his parents still live.

He said: "I feel that I have come full circle with my vocation journey beginning in a small rural church in Colwinston and after nearly five years in the town parish of Porthcawl, I have returned to a rural community for the next step in my ministry journey."

"Obviously I already know the area well and everyone here from the wardens to the laity have given me such a warm welcome that I'm really looking forward to working with them and sharing God's love with them."

"There are some mixed emotions as I'm sorry to be saying goodbye to Porthcawl as it is a very busy, thriving parish with daily masses that taught me the

importance of sacramental life and how it is central to church life in mission and ministry.

"But I enjoy getting to know people so I am excited to be starting a new role and look forward to all the challenges that it will bring."

"In Wick the population will be increasing due to the new housing estate and fundraising is already underway for a new roof at St James."

Bishop David said: "Craig Vaughan is very rooted in the Vale of Glamorgan, but beside a deep local knowledge, he brings a strong vocation to priesthood and an impressive track record of service, being as Christ to those he ministers and seeing Christ in them."

"A family man, who is warm and personable, he has a rare talent in bringing the faith alive for children and young people, and local primary and secondary schools have been energised by his vision and verve, not least when he so vividly unfolded the story of Holy Week in the midst of a comprehensive school."

In his spare time Craig enjoys spending time with his family, and helping out on his parents' farm

Rotary Junior Youth Speaks



The competitors Molly Willsher, Elis Paine, Madeleine Pondevie, Ava Spence, Sophie Bratcher, Lauren McAndrew, George Barry and Katlyn Spurgeon. (with Rotary Club of Bridgend president nominee Hopkin Joseph).

ON Thursday, March 16 eight local primary schools competed to win the Bridgend Rotary Junior Youth Speaks Shield.

The event was held in Pencoed Primary School. The competition proved to be a successful evening again this year with speakers impressing and entertaining the audience. The winner on the evening was Madeleine Pondevie from Croesty Primary School.

However, all of the competitors should be commended for the high standard of public speaking that they offered.

Pupils, parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, teachers and Rotarians gathered in anticipation of an exciting evening and they were most certainly rewarded with lively and entertaining presentations from the entrants.

The audience was held spellbound listening to a list of speakers including Molly Willsher, Elis Paine, Madeleine

Pondevie, Ava Spence, Sophie Bratcher, Lauren McAndrew, George Barry and Katlyn Spurgeon.

An extra delight to the evening was the return of Roan Goulden, who was last year's winner of this competition. He spoke about his pride in winning the competition last year and his public speaking skills and humour set the tone for the evening.

The eight competitors spoke on a range of diverse subjects, including 'The Gift of Dyslexia', 'Why Can't We All Get Along?', 'Has Technology Changed the Way we Live?' The winner, Madeleine Pondevie, offered her intriguing views on 'Nationality'.

The Rotary Club of Bridgend would like to thank Pencoed Primary School for hosting the event.

Thanks also go to all of those who took part and the many people who supported them, making the evening such a wonderful event.

We look forward to next year!



The winner, Madeleine Pondevie from Croesty Primary School, with Hopkin Joseph.

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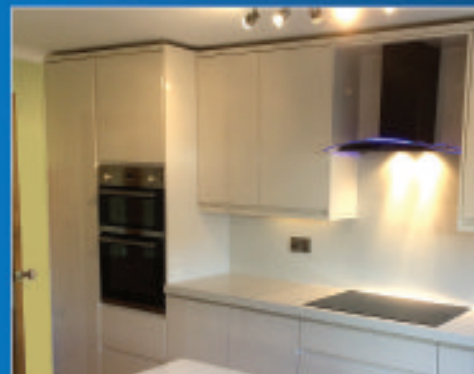
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LATEST BOROUGH PLANNING PROPOSALS

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Joe Powton – 79 Glan Y Nant, Tondur – Single storey extension to front of existing garage, to be used as an additional living area. Battrick Properties Ltd – **33 South Road, Porthcawl** – Resubmission of P16/498/FUL for construction of two bed dwelling in garden at rear of 33 South Road and modifications to entrance lane.

Mr Jonathan Pugh – Ty Talgarth, Nantymoel – Proposed rear side extension.

Mr Richard Francis – 23 Eleanor Close, Pencoed – Crown reduce silver birch tree by 30 per cent and trim back overhanging branches from neighbouring property's garden.

Mr SJ and Mrs RA Minns – 7 Ffordd y Mynach, Pyle – Single storey flat roof rear extension for disabled person.

Newton Down Windfarm Ltd – Stormy Lane, Porthcawl – Removal of conditions 9 and 20 of P12/368/FUL relating to Newton Down Visitor Centre; Non material

amendment to vary layout of site infrastructure following micro-siting and removal of visitors building and parking and permanent anemometer.

Mrs Susan Frampton – Unit 12 Garth Drive, Brackla Industrial Estate – Dog bathing facility including side canopy structure (resubmission).

Mr Anthony Morgan – 31 Heol Cambrensis, Pyle – Garage, utility space and wet room at ground floor level with proposed hobby/storage room in roof space with dormers (revised application following refusal of previous application P/16/963/FUL).

Lloyds Banc Plc – Summerville Bungalow, Heol Las, Mawdlam – Demolition and replacement of an existing bungalow with three two-storey detached dwellings at the site of Summerville Bungalow.

Mr A Kideer – 6 Talbot Terrace, Maesteg – First floor extension to rear and porch to the front.

LSP Developments Ltd – Land adjacent to new Bellway housing development off Newton Nottage Road, Newton, Porthcawl – Approval of details for conditions 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of P15/787/FUL.

Mr F and J Jones – Land at the former playground, Fountain Terrace, Aberkenfig – Two static residential gypsy caravans together with the erection of day/utility room, two touring caravans and relocated access driveway.

Ward Jones (Bridgend) Ltd – Land off Horsefair Road, Waterton Industrial Estate, Bridgend – Non material amendment to P/16/472/FUL.

Bridgend Valleys Railway Company – The Train Shed, Old Station Yard, Pontycymmer – Proposed change of use, existing members mess room to sale of soft drinks, etc for consumption off the premises.

Mrs Catherine Culbertson – 1 St Christophers Road, Newton, Porthcawl – Demolish existing conservatory and construct a single storey extension.

Ms Emma Hamawand – 6 Wyndham House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend – Change of use from A1 to A3. Pine Range/The Village Diner – **Pine Range,**

Potters Hill, Ewenny – Change of use from first floor furniture

showroom to first floor dwelling unit and side porch extension.

Coastal Housing Group – Land at The Rhiw car park, walkway and bridge entrance – Discharge of condition 21 of P/15/60/FUL.

C H Knight and Partners – The Tythegston Barns, Lower Farm, Tythegston Village Road, Tythegston – Reduction of sycamore tree by approximately 2m on sides and up to 3m in height.

Coastal Housing Group – Former McDonald's, 11 Nolton Street, Bridgend – Prior notification for demolition of building.

Mr and Mrs Ashmita Patel – Plot of land adjacent Tre Ethwil, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr – Proposed three-bed detached dormer bungalow.

Mr G Sheppard – 77 Trem y Mor, Brackla – Single storey lounge extension to rear.

Mr K Haines – Land rear of Osborne Terrace, Nantymoel – New dwelling on land to the rear of Osborne Terrace, Nantymoel.

Mr Kevin Griffiths – Land at Church Street, Rhiwceiliog, Cowbridge – Replacement building for forge/blacksmith works and associated change of use of the land to equine purposes.

Redrow Homes (South Wales) Ltd – Land south of roundabout of A473 with Pencoed Way, Pencoed – Retrospective consent for display of non-illuminated V-shaped advertising hoarding in relation to the promotion of the Redrow Homes development site.

Porthcawl Harbourside – East Pier, Porthcawl Marina, Porthcawl – Discharge of conditions 1 and 2 of P/16/778/LIS.

Mr Jason Thomas – 11 Duffryn Madog, Nantyllyn, Maesteg – Two storey rear extension comprising of additional living space at ground floor level and additional bedroom to first floor.



Amount of medicine wasted 'hard to swallow'

LOCAL patients are being asked to help save millions of pounds each year in wasted medicines that end up being destroyed, unused.

An estimated £4 million worth of prescription medicines are destroyed each year in Bridgend, and the rest of the ABMU area because they aren't needed by patients.

In many cases, these were drugs ordered on monthly repeat prescriptions, stockpiled unused in people's homes, or returned to local pharmacies for disposal.

Last year, ABMU spent £97.6 million on medicines prescribed by GPs and other community clinicians.

Unfortunately, around £4 million of those drugs were wasted: £1.2 million worth left unused in patients' homes; £1.4 million worth returned to community pharmacies – and there was about £650,000 worth of unused drugs in care homes.

A spokesperson pointed out: "Unused medicines can't be reused. They can't go to another patient, or be sent to a poorer country. "Strict quality control rules around how they are stored and managed, mean the only option is to destroy them, if they aren't needed after they've been dispensed."

Airport CEO to address Business Club

CARDIFF Airport CEO Debra Barber has been lined up to address a meeting of Cowbridge Business Club on April 5.

She will discuss the latest achievements of Cardiff Airport and the challenges that lay ahead.

Wesley Skene, founder of the Cowbridge Business Club, said: "We're very excited to hear from Ms Barber. Cardiff Airport is one of the Vale's most important businesses and a true indicator of Welsh economic strength."

"The Cowbridge Business Club is keen to hear how Cardiff Airport has been developing over the last few years."

The club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6pm in the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge. Log onto www.cowbridgebusinessclub.co.uk

Sandville gets set for its 26th anniversary



Aerial view of the property c 1960.



Sandville Court today.



Recent aerial view of Sandville Court.



Pen-y-Myndd House in 1960 at time of take-over.

ON Thursday, April 6, the Sandville Self Help Centre at Sandville Court, Ton Kenfig, will be celebrating its 26th anniversary.

All are welcome to visit Sandville and join in the fun. Don't be shy, come along and bring your friends for a free day out!

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Mali returns to the Vale for S4C mystery

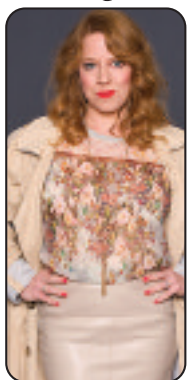
THE Dolwen family – and viewers gripped by the series – have been shaken to the core in the award-winning murder mystery drama, 35 Diwrnod, on Sunday nights on S4C.

The mystery surrounding Gwynndaf's death continues, with Ifan and Huw blaming each other for drowning him. The brothers and sisters are angry because they are no nearer to reaching a compromise regarding Mair's will, and Heulyn's death casts a shadow over the old farmhouse.

Elder sister, Nia, feels the weight of the world on her shoulders. Although she is not one to show much emotion to other family members, losing her parents has obviously had a huge effect on her life. And she's a bit of a man-eater.

"Nia is very good at hiding her emotions as she is so thick-skinned," said Mali Tudno Jones, who has starred in *The Roman Invasion of Britain* and *Dark Detour*. "She doesn't have much patience with the rest of the family and she can see straight through their lies."

"She lives her life with no boundaries and unfortunately she always gets hurt in the process. She has a brilliant poker face, but she is suffering due to lack of love and support; the little girl inside her is completely



Mali Tudno Jones, who plays Nia in the S4C drama.

lost." Originally from Pendoylan, in the Vale, the 40-year-old actress lived and worked in London for many years before returning in recent times to her native area.

She has derived great satisfaction from playing Nia in the third series of *35 Diwrnod*, which won a Bafta Cymru award in 2014.

"I love Nia and admire her character as she is strong, playful and isn't afraid to give her opinion. She can also be incredibly kind and knows when to show empathy."

"Playing a character with so much depth, strength and humour has been a special experience and every day of filming was a privilege," said Mali. "The brothers and sisters have a strange

relationship; they both love and hate each other. As the series progresses, a sexual relationship develops between Nia and her brother-in-law, Dafydd.

"Nia does not seem to think about what this could do to her family and in a strange way, she feels as if she is doing her sister a favour by showing her what kind of a man her husband really is."

Did the actors know who was responsible for the murder of little brother, Ifan?

"No, we didn't find out until the very last minute. Nobody had a clue! This method was very effective because by not knowing who had done it, we had to live in the moment and anyone could have been responsible for killing him."

"Nobody could act the murderer because we had no idea who was guilty. Great!"

The next episode of *35 Diwrnod* is on Sunday, April 2 at 9pm on S4C and had English subtitles. It is then available to watch on Friday, April 7, again on S4C at 10.30pm with on-screen English subtitles. To watch a trailer of *35 Diwrnod*, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNuXKuPUuQ.



Carrying out the speed survey.

'Be extra vigilant' – public is urged

South Wales Police Chief Constable Peter Vaughan has urged the public to be "extra vigilant" in the wake of the terrorist incident in London.

"I extend the sympathies of all of us at South Wales Police to those affected by the grave events in London on March 23", he said adding that current security arrangements were being reviewed.

"I want to reassure the public that there is no specific threat to this region. However, the public are urged to be extra vigilant and to report suspicious incidents."

"Police visibility will increase in certain areas, such as crowded places and iconic locations across the South Wales

Police force area. The threat level across the UK is currently at 'Severe'.

"Our thoughts are with the family and friends of those affected by the terrorist incident."

The public is being advised to be "alert and not alarmed".

Communities are urged to remain vigilant and to report any concerns to the confidential Anti-Terrorism Hotline on 0800 789321.

In an emergency, always call 999. In addition, you can report suspicious activity online: <https://beta.met.police.uk/tell-us-about/possible-terrorist-activity/report-possible-terrorist-activity/>

LOCAL residents in Rhoose are increasing the pressure for action to slow down speeding drivers in built-up residential areas in the village.

Residents say some drivers blatantly ignore speed restrictions and cause major concerns. The principal areas affected are Fontygary Road, Fommon Road, Readers Way, and most worryingly, Trem Echni, where there is a large and popular children's play area and park.

People in the area believe it is just a matter of time until there's an incident.

To raise awareness of the issue to drivers in the area, local resident and safety campaigner Graham Loveluck-Edwards teamed up with South Wales Police Community Liaison Officer, Alex MacKay, to spend half an hour outside the gates of the play area in Trem Echni with a state-of-the-art laser speed gun.

In that half an hour, on a quiet Saturday afternoon, a total of 43 cars passed by. Eleven of them were speeding (25.6 per cent) and five of those were driving at speeds that would more than likely have resulted in prosecution.

Mr Loveluck-Edwards told The GEM: "These speeding drivers need to wake up to the danger they are putting

people's live in.

"If you want to experience the thrills of speed, book a track day in Llandow. Don't do it on our streets. This exercise, though just a small sample of all the traffic that passes through Rhoose every day, really re-enforces the fears of so many people in the village. This is a real problem that requires action."

Alex MacKay of South Wales Police explained: "This is by no means a problem restricted to Rhoose. Cars are speeding in villages all over the Vale."

"We all have busy lives, we all have a lot to cram into a day but there is no excuse for endangering lives."

Rhoose resident, Catherine Phillips, has started a petition on change.org to show how much popular support there is for traffic calming measures by the park in Trem Echni.

The Vale Council recently installed a counter device by the park to run a more substantial study of the passing traffic and the results should be published at a future date.

Mr Loveluck-Edwards and Alex MacKay also want to re-enforce the message that 20 mph should be what drivers adhere to near schools, play areas and places which pose a specific hazard.

DURING 'NATIONAL PET MONTH' WE WANT IMAGES OF YOUR CATS AND DOGS!

NATIONAL PET MONTH runs from April 1 until May 1 and to celebrate it, THE GEM wants readers to send in images of their dogs and cats.

The idea behind National Pet Month is to encourage responsible ownership and support for animal charities.

We need you to email us at editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk.

Let us know your name, your dog or cat's name (and breed if not mixed) and attach a good quality jpg. We will endeavour to get in as many images as possible over the next few weeks.

Vale LIFT group

THE LIFT self help group offers friendship and support to those affected by breast cancer.

The group meet in Cowbridge once a fortnight, either between 10am and 1pm for relaxation therapies or 2pm and 4pm for other activities such as speakers or trips out.

Come and join us, bring a friend, for friendly, supportive and confidential get-togethers.

If you know anyone who might benefit from this group, please ring Anne on 01446 772843 or Judith on 01446 794176.

GVS services

V A L E - b a s e d Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS), supports community groups serving the local area with free, low-cost services.

These include various items such as – sound system; digital projector; digital camera; and overhead projector.

Contact Glamorgan Voluntary Services, Barry Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, Barry on 01446 741706. E-mail: enquiries@gvs.wales Website: www.gvs.wales

Activities at Barry Library over Easter

BARRY Library has some new Easter activities happening as follows:

Easter Bonnet Craft – Monday, April 10 from 2pm-3pm. For ages 4+. £1 charge. Call 01446 422425 to book your places.

Easter Boxes – Tuesday, April 11 from 10.30am-11.30am. For ages 4+. £1 charge. Call 01446 422425 to book your places.

Code Club – Tuesday, April 11 from 3pm-4pm. For ages 9-11. Free. Call 01446 422425 to book your places.

Inventors Box Workshop – Wednesday, April 12 from 10.30am-12noon. For ages 3-8. 50p charge. Call 01446 422425 to book your places.

Film – *Rise of the Guardians* (PG) – Thursday, April 13 from 10.30am. Recommended age 7+.

Drop-in Easter Craft – Decorating Easter Eggs – Thursday, April 13 from 2pm-3.30pm. All ages. Free.

Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 14 from 10.30am-12noon. All ages!

Eggstravagaza Fete!

Saturday 8 April 2017

11 – 3pm

A fun day for all the family!

There will be lots to see and do including an Easter egg hunt, homemade cakes, raffle, tombola, bric-a-brac, refreshments, face painting, and much more.

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NEW AUTISM PLAN FOR WALES IS WELCOMED – BUT RAISES QUESTIONS

PLANS announced on March 27 by Rebecca Evans, Minister for Social Services and Public Health, for an additional £7 million for the National Integrated Autism Service (NIAS) have been questioned by the Welsh Conservatives and a local

branch of the National Autistic Society (NAS).

The announcement, made at the start of National Autism Week, brings the total amount of funding allocated to supporting autism services in Wales to £13 million up to 2021.

A spokesperson for the Welsh Government (WG) claimed that Wales is the first part of the UK to create a

national service to provide lifetime support to children and adults with autism, and their families.

The service, which will be introduced throughout Wales by 2018, will provide new adult diagnostic services; support for families and carers; help with transition from child to adult provision; and training for those working with service users.

The initiative was launched on March 27 with a video showing support from sporting stars from Wales, national football and rugby squads.

People with autism will be able to choose whether they would like to make others aware of their autism by wearing a wristband or showing a card.

Ms Evans said: "Wales has long been a leader in providing support for people with autism and their families, publishing our first action plan back in 2008. The NIAS is another important step forward."

Mark Isherwood AM, the Welsh Conservatives' 'Autism Champion', has long called for legislation to give more support to the estimated 34,000 people in Wales living with autism.

Specific legislation exists in England and

Northern Ireland, and the UK Government's Act – which is targeted at adults with autism – has improved public services for thousands of autistic people in England since it was passed in 2009.

In October 2016, the Labour-majority Assembly Government blocked plans for an Autism Bill for Wales.

Mr Isherwood said: "The Welsh Government needs to provide assurances that unlike previous money, this funding for people with autism is ring-fenced and properly monitored."

"At present, services lack consistency and many families feel that there is a lack of vital professional awareness of autism across Wales."

"The autism community needs proper statutory identity, so that local authorities and health boards have very clear duties on the statute book."

"We need legislation, so that Wales can lead the way in providing effective, consistent services for those affected by autism."

A spokesperson for the Bridgend and District branch of the NAS said: "We welcome any additional funding for autism services and provision, but I ask where this funding has come from? "Is it from the £200m

fund announced from Westminster to fund social care in Wales? In that case, it should be used to fund social care, rather than delivering a plan that doesn't seem to reach the end user?"

"There are needs, such as providing timely diagnosis and 1-1 care, which require immediate attention, yet seem to be swept under the carpet."

Rebecca Evans, Minister for Social Services and Public Health, responded to this, saying:

"For the avoidance of doubt, the additional funding of £7 million I have announced for autism has been provided through the Integrated Care Fund."

"This funding is separate to the extra £20 million the Welsh Government has announced for social care, as a result of consequential funding received following the UK Government's budget."

She added: "I am proud of Wales' track record on autism services and I am taking action to continue the improvements we have seen in this area."

"I am committed to ensuring people with autism, their families and carers, get the right support, at the right time, wherever they live in Wales."

Can you look after affectionate Maxwell?

MAXWELL is a handsome, three-year-old Staffy crossbreed, is big and bouncy, and loves nothing more than to shower you with affectionate cuddles and kisses.

Staff at Bridgend Dogs Trust are looking for a forever home for Maxwell where he can be the only pet, ensuring all the attention will be on him!

He loves going out for long walks, but he is a strong boy, so will need new owners to be physically strong to walk him.

He is nervous around other dogs, but at the centre, staff are building up his socialisation and confidence and training will need to continue once he is homed.

Potential owners will need to come to the centre for multiple visits to build up a bond with him. He is an incredibly fast learner and despite his size, is a whizz on the agility course.

Maxwell needs an adult-only, active home where he is not left alone for long periods during the day.

If you think you can offer Maxwell, or any of the dogs at home, visit <http://www.dogstrust.org.uk> or call 01656 725219.



Maxwell – he needs a strong hand and lots of love.

New prison welcomed

THE leader of the Welsh Conservatives has welcomed plans for the building of a new prison in Port Talbot, unveiled last week by the Ministry of Justice.

Andrew RT Davies AM said: "These are significant plans which, if given the green light, could play a strong role in job creation and economic growth and modernising the UK prison estate."

"Naturally, communities always come first and their views must be listened to as these plans develop."

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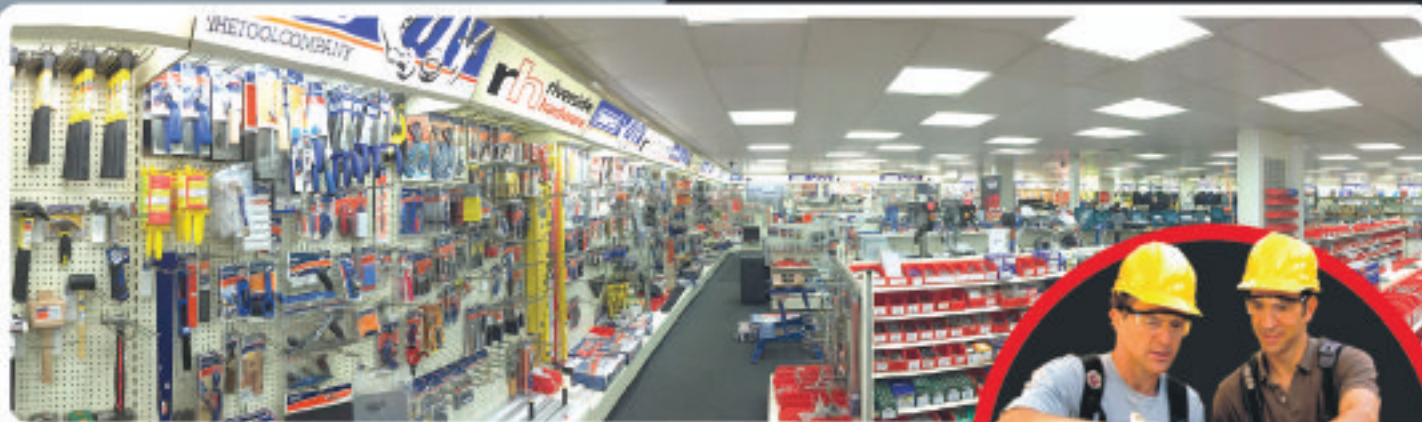
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'Don't spread untruths over new energy plant'

– SAYS VALE LEADER

THE Vale Council Leader, Coun Neil Moore, has condemned Plaid Cymru and Friends of the Earth in strong terms for talking "nonsense" and "scaremongering" over the new energy plant being constructed at Woodham Road in Barry

He emphasised that the new plant is not 'an incinerator' – a term that has been used a great deal locally and in leaflets distributed in Barry. (Also see story 'Licence Fight' right and letter below).

Coun Moore said it appeared Plaid and Friends of the Earth appeared to be working hand in hand.

"This action is scaremongering at the worst level I have ever seen and is causing a great distress to very many people.

"There have been many untruths told and 'alternative facts' seem to be spreading unabated.

"There is no truth to the 'fact' that there will be smoke pluming from the energy recovery plant currently being built on Woodham Road in Barry Docks.

"It is also pertinent to confirm that it is 'not an incinerator'. It is a gasification plant and is an energy recovery facility. I have carried out research and that research indicates that it will not belch out smoke and fumes, carcinogenic or otherwise."

Coun Moore explained that 'gasification plants' have been in existence for many years and operated in many countries without any issues.

"The unfounded

rumours are malicious and are deplorable. Those spreading them should be absolutely ashamed of themselves.

"I also consider this to be a political stunt and people are ashamedly trying to pretend that some councillors on the Vale Council are to blame for voting for this so-called incinerator. It is also alleged that all Labour councillors voted for it and this is categorically incorrect."

Coun Moore said he wanted local people to be aware of how the plans were approved.

"An application to install a wood-fuelled renewable energy plant in Barry was originally submitted to the council in September 2008.

"This was refused by the council the following July before this decision was appealed to the Welsh Assembly.

"The appeal was upheld, with substantial costs against the council, by the Planning Inspector following a three-day public enquiry in July 2010, subject to certain conditions being met.

"This decision made it clear that the Planning Inspector, appointed by Welsh Government, believed the application should not have been refused as he could find no good reason for doing so.

"Following this ruling, a second application for a wood-fired renewable energy plant was submitted in January 2015.

"This application sought to amend the development previously approved on appeal.

"The application was for a gasification with energy recovery waste facility, using only wood waste – and it is not an incinerator.

"The Planning Committee fully

considered all relevant material, including the previous appeal on the site, where it was determined that no 'Environmental Impact Assessment' was required.

"This was confirmed by Welsh Government in the case of the last application, who informed Friends of the Earth directly, and that the council was free to determine the application.

"It should also be noted that there is no third-party right of appeal against the granting of planning permission. Given the previous planning history of the site and this development, it is clear that all matters were fully considered prior to the council determining the planning application."

The Vale Leader added: "I understand that the developer is seeking consent for the environmental permit from National Resources Wales (NRW), which is an entirely separate process and one that the council has no involvement in.

"We are aware that NRW are carrying out a consultation process until May 8, so any concerns about this matter should be addressed to them before that deadline."

'Gasification' – an explanation

GASIFICATION is a process that transforms a carbon-based material, such as municipal solid waste or biomass, into other forms of energy without actually burning it.

Instead, gasification converts the solid and liquid waste materials into a gas through a chemical reaction.

This reaction combines those carbon-based materials (known as feedstocks) with small amounts of air or oxygen (but not enough to burn the materials), breaking them down into simple molecules, primarily a mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen.

'NO TO BARRY INCINERATOR

MANY people have asked me on the doorsteps if I am for or against the proposed Barry incinerator – and I would like to make it clear that I am vehemently opposed to it.

I am opposed because incineration results in high levels of greenhouse gas emissions. For every tonne of waste burned, typically more than one tonne of CO2 is released into the atmosphere and the alternatives to incineration are cheaper, more

flexible, quicker to implement, and far better for the environment.

As a resident of the town, I fully support the majority who are against the incinerator – as over-capacity in incineration undermines waste prevention, the re-use and recycling of materials – although I fully agree that we do need more job opportunities in the town.

But we must remember, in addition to greenhouse gas emissions that exacerbate climate change, incinerators (including gasification and pyrolysis plants) emit many toxins and pollutants and give rise to public health

concerns.

Recycling is also harmed by incineration for various reasons, including the over-presence of incineration capacity.

Also, the citizens of the town must bear in mind that those living near incinerators report having had to deal with problems such as noise, odour, traffic, visual intrusion, worsened air quality and light pollution.

Therefore, we must do all we can to stop this incinerator from gaining an operating licence in our town.

Coun Richard Bertin
(Independent, Vale Council)

Licence fight is a 'chance to protect the community'



Barry Town Council Extraordinary Meeting was well attended last Thursday, March 23.

THE 'Docks Incinerator Action Group' is continuing its campaign in Barry by leafletting thousands of houses in the town to encourage people to object to a licence being granted for a new energy plant at the docks.

An extraordinary meeting of Barry Town Council took place on Thursday, March 23 and around 150 local residents attended with the licence issue centre stage, along with a proposal to get expert advice on the plant which could be presented to Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

No fuel can be burned on the site until NRW decides in May whether or not to grant a licence.

Plaid Cymru's leader on the town council, Shirley Hodges, whose

party has opposed the incinerator, helped to secure £10,000 of funding for expert advice which will be submitted to NRW as evidence against granting the licence.

She said: "The incinerator undermines the economic regeneration of Barry and is a massive health hazard."

"This expert advice will be crucial in our attempt to stop this threat to our town. NRW's consultation is open until May 8. It could be our last chance to protect our community."

REGENERATION

Local resident Alexis Liasatos raised concerns about the potential fire hazard posed and the material to be burned on the site.

Other residents were also concerned that the Barry regeneration programme's plans for leisure, retail, commerce and a university campus

would be undermined by the presence of the new plant.

Coun Steffan Wiliam said: "We are facing the possibility that this stack will be allowed to belch filth into the skies above Barry because Labour and Conservative Vale councillors voted for it."

"This scheme will increase air pollution in Barry. It also flies in the face of plans here for leisure, retail and a university campus."

"By voting for this, Labour and the Tories have jeopardised Barry's economy and our children's health."

COMPLAINT

Earlier this week, a complaint about the project was handed in to the Wales officer of the European Commission.

The complaint over failure to follow environmental impact (EIA) law was submitted by Friends of the Earth (Barry & Vale) represented by Max Wallis, with the support

of Anna Beardsley on behalf of the Docks Incinerator Action Group and Jill Evans MEP.

Mr Wallis said the basis of the complaint was two-fold: that the capacity of 200 tonnes of wood chip per day made it a 'Schedule 1 project' when it had been classed as a smaller one – 'Schedule 2'; and that the Welsh Government had not independently assessed it for "possible environmental effects".

BEST ADVICE

Coun John Thomas of the Vale Conservatives said the Conservative and Labour councillors had followed the 'best possible advice at the time' and he said Coun Wiliam was indulging in "blatant electioneering".

Coun Thomas explained: "The original application was turned down by the council planning committee but the appeal to Welsh Government was lost by

the council.

"The vote Coun Wiliam is referring to was when this came back to committee for some minor changes.

"As the principle had been approved at appeal the planning advice to committee was that the application should be approved.

"At that time Plaid councillors voted 'against' which if they had been successful would have opened the council up to the possibility of huge costs.

"Conservatives and Labour voted according to the best possible advice at the time and Coun Wiliam is guilty of blatant electioneering in a quasi-judicial manner where politics should rightly play no part."

For the view of one Barry Island resident, David Alexander, and images, turn to page 28.

More trophies for Barry RAFA

THE Barry branch of the RAF Association has yet again added to its haul of trophies.

Having just missed out on any trophies during 2015-2016, it has regained the Large Branch Efficiency Area trophy for 2016-2017.

This is an unusual case, as the class in which it is entered for trophy recognition depends on its gross membership at December 31 each year.

As this figure varies year to year, either side of 150 members, the branch can find itself in a different class.

It has now achieved the Small Branch and Large Branch Efficient Area Trophy twice in each category and the UK National Small Branch trophy once – all achieved inside seven years.

During 2015/2016, a total of three national presidential awards and five area presidential

awards to individual branch members were also presented which is a substantial and unusual occurrence for any one branch.

The welfare and befriending work of the branch for serving and ex-serving personnel and their dependants within the Vale continues to increase at an alarming rate. To this end, the branch, combined with the ATC 372 Cadet Squadron, will be holding a charity fun quiz night on Friday, April 21 from 7.30pm at The Market Street Club – one to six members per team at £2 per person.

The quizmaster promises to set the questions to suit everyone – and you're assured of fun and a warm welcome.

Please contact the branch secretary on 07851643560, or register your interest on The Market Street Club Facebook page.



Auction for ploughers

THE Welsh Ploughing Association is fundraising for the 2017 All Wales Ploughing and Hedging Championship by holding a 'promise auction' on Friday, March 31.

The event takes place in All Hallows Church Hall, Miskin. Viewing starts at 6.30pm, and the auction starts at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Anyone wishing to offer any promises, should telephone 01446 710376.

HISTORY SOCIETY

THE Rhosoe and District History Society is presenting a talk by Kara Bennett on Aberthaw Cement – past and present, tomorrow (Friday) at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhosoe Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets at the door £1 per adult, 50p for under-16s. If anyone has old photographs of the cement works, please bring them along.

If you would like to become a member of the society, complete an application form at a meeting. A membership fee of £5 per annum will be payable.

Baby Astrid a surprise, after Penarth woman 'felt a bit unwell' while on holiday..!



Proud mum Evie with baby Astrid.

A Penarth woman who had felt "a bit unwell" while on holiday abroad, was shocked to discover she was pregnant.

Last week, Evie Coombs, of Cogan, was among the proud mums who welcomed 114 babies into the world at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB).

She was due to give birth on March 17, but was a few days overdue and gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Astrid Elizabeth Felicity Martin, weighing just over 7lbs on March 21 at 7.20am in University Hospital of Wales (UHW).

Evie recalled: "I was completely shocked to find out I was pregnant. I'd been a bit sick when I was away on holiday in Tenerife and felt that something wasn't right and as it turned out, I was pregnant."

"I woke up on Sunday

(March 19) at 10.30am with period pain-like cramps and I thought it was the start of labour. This went on for about 40 hours before I went into proper active labour.

"I received my antenatal care at University Hospital Llandough and then came to the University Hospital of Wales to give birth.

"The care I have received has been fantastic, everyone has been amazing. The student midwife, Suzy, was brilliant—she was my rock, and kept me so calm throughout, she was absolutely fantastic. She even came to see me on her next shift to see how we both were.

"I have never been so tired, but so happy. I'm exhausted at the moment, as I haven't slept since she was born.

"I feel nervous about being a new mum, very excited and extremely happy—I just want to

make sure I get it all right for Astrid. I know I'll have great support from everyone around me."

New grandmother, Sarah Thomas from Sully, said: "I'm looking forward to lots of cuddles with Astrid as she grows. I'm hoping she calls me 'Nan'.

"I'm always going to be there for Evie, to support her and help with babysitting, especially when Evie goes back to work as a nurse in Neurosurgery at UHW.

"I feel very proud to be a new grandparent and so happy. My hopes and dreams for Astrid are that she is always happy and content; it's what I wanted for my own children—just for them to be happy."

Royal eye on rural projects

At a time of great uncertainty for farming and rural communities, The Prince's Countryside Fund has opened for grant applications.

With grants of up to £50,000 available per project totalling over £600,000, rural organisations and communities are being encouraged by the Fund to consider applying for funding to support their countryside projects.

Set up by Prince Charles in 2010, the charity has now awarded grants to more than 200 projects across the UK totalling over £8 million.

The grant programme tackles a wide range of rural issues, including support and business advice for traditional farming families, career support and training opportunities for young people and support for communities to run vital community services.

This March, applications are being particularly welcomed from community shops, pubs and innovative projects intended to alleviate rural isolation.

All applicants need to complete an online form, which can be accessed via the website: www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/grant-und.org.uk.

Deadline for applications is 5pm on Thursday, April 13. Visit <http://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/grant-und.org.uk>.

A SCHOOL FOR NAUGHTY DOGS!



RESEARCH released by Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity, has revealed that dogs with behavioural problems cost the average dog owner in Wales £261 a year, equating to £3,132 over the average dog's lifetime.

Items damaged included shoes (38 per cent); homework (38 per cent); clothing (31 per cent); jewellery (31 per cent); dissertations (15 per cent).

The charity has now opened a Dogs Trust Dog School, offering practical

help, expert training, and advice, after it received nearly 9,000 calls from owners looking to rehome their dogs due to behavioural problems.

"At Dog School, owners learn how to teach their pet new skills using positive reward-based training, and find out lots about dog behaviour to help them develop a trusting relationship and prevent the kind of problems that cost the UK over £3 billion," a spokesperson explained.

For more information, including how you can register for a place, visit <http://www.dogstrustdogschool.org.uk/dog-school/>

Easter eggs appeal for homeless by the Llamau charity



CHARITY Llamau, whose mission is to end homelessness for young people and women in Wales, has launched its annual appeal for Easter eggs.

The charity sets out each year to make sure that on Easter Sunday, each homeless young person and vulnerable woman that Llamau supports receives an egg.

Last year, Llamau worked with over 8,000 young people and vulnerable women and achieved positive outcomes for the person in 98 per cent of cases.

Many of the people we work with have experienced abuse, violence and neglect. Llamau works with each person to ensure that they

are able to achieve their potential and leave homelessness behind. April 3. More information is available on the website: www.llamau.org.uk/easter take your eggs to Llamau's Head Office at

Legion veterans at Westminster
LAST week, veterans from across Wales, including the Vale and Bridgend, attended the Royal British Legion Wales' reception in Westminster.

The veterans and beneficiaries gathered in the Terrace Dining Room, where speeches were given regarding the vital support provided to service personnel – past and present – and their families.

Vale MP Mr Cairns, who attended the event, said: "It was a privilege to attend the reception, along with beneficiaries and veterans from the local area. Listening to the beneficiaries speak of the support which they and their families had received during and after service, was truly touching.

"Long may the Royal British Legion's great work continue."

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£70m overspend for two local Welsh NHS boards

SHOCKING deficits of £39 million for Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health (ABMU) and £31m for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CVUHB) have been forecast, it was revealed this week – and cuts to services have not been ruled out.

Vaughan Gething, the Welsh Health Secretary, speaking on BBC Wales' *Good Morning Wales* on March 27, would not be drawn on whether services would suffer because of the overspend within ABMU and Cardiff and the Vale, and the two other health boards in Wales.

In total, overspends of some £150m have been forecast and Mr Gething said that the Welsh Government should not

bail out the health boards, but was reported as saying he was "...pretty certain..." that services would not be cut.

Mr Gething said: "I don't think that any service is going to be cut simply because of finance but part of our challenge is we need to change the way we deliver services anyway."

"That isn't about necessarily money making all of our decisions for us."

"It really is about how we provide a better service."

Speaking for the Welsh Conservatives, Angela Burns – Shadow Health Secretary – said that patients, and staff, could end up "paying the price" of a "culture of waste".

Mrs Burns said: "These soaring deficits show a health service teetering on the brink of a financial abyss."

"Failures by the Welsh Labour Government to

by GEM REPORTER

initiate long-term planning measures for health boards and to break the culture of waste and inefficiency have all played their part in the mess our NHS now finds itself in."

The NHS in Wales has been the responsibility of the Assembly since its inception in 1999.

"There is a real risk that health boards will," said Mrs Burns, "soon be forced to cut vital services in order to make savings, and it's patients and staff who will be left paying the price."

"To avoid any further damage to services and public confidence in them, the Cabinet Secretary needs to instigate swift root-and-branch reforms of the health service focused on better planning, smarter spending and stronger public health

messaging."

A spokesperson for ABMU said that an 'over-reliance' on 'expensive' locum and agency staff added to the financial problems.

"There are many variables affecting the financial position in any given year. Despite receiving a material increase in funding over the last two years, our biggest challenges have come from delivering savings programmes and addressing the increased demand on our services – for example, in cancer treatments."

In addition we have experienced increased costs in areas such as our nursing and medical workforce costs due to recruitment issues. Difficulties recruiting permanent staff means there is an over-reliance on agency and locum staff instead, which is expensive."

The spokesperson added: "We are continuing to 'drive

forward' waste-reduction campaigns to be as efficient as possible."

"For example, cutting down the amount of medicine and energy waste. In addition, we are looking at reducing travel and administration costs by making better use of technology."

ABMU health board is one of the largest NHS organisations in the UK with an overall annual budget of £1.2 billion and an average running cost of £3m per day.

A spokesperson for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board said: "CVUHB is forecasting a £30.9m deficit at the end of the financial year ending March 31, 2017."

"We are currently developing a budget for the financial year 2017-18 taking into account the previous year's deficit, allocations of additional funding, cost pressures and growth in demand for the services we provide."



Red Noses galore and a 'Shower of Surprises' for Sir at Oak Field!



THE teaching staff of Oak Field celebrated Red Nose Day by undergoing 'Terrible Trials' in...I'm a Teacher Get Me Out of Here!

Mr Chapman had to endure the Shower of Surprises. Unfortunately, the 'surprises' turned out to be baked beans, cold custard and sawdust!

Other trials saw Mrs Bladon and Mr Hill having a 'Liquid Lunch' that nobody would choose and Mrs Borge and Mrs Barter finding mini beasts in their jelly goo!

Ms Roberts felt for tokens in 'snake snot' but the overall King of Oak Field was Mr Hill, who triumphed in the final decider of dry cracker eating! **ND**



Council says it is ready for new coins

PARKING meters and pay and display machines operated by the Vale of Glamorgan Council are in the final stages of being converted to take the new 12-sided £1 coin.

A spokesman told *The GEM* on Tuesday (March 28) that the conversion operation was almost complete, and that it would be finished by "the end of the week".

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgangem.co.uk

Harris Pye is keen to recruit more local engineering talent

LOCAL engineering group Harris Pye is commencing its programme to recruit from the local community for its in-house training facility.

Harris Pye has operated its own training school for a number of years, for welders and boilermakers, to ensure that it has sufficient skilled men to undertake the expanding workload

of the company.

A spokesman explained: "It is currently recognised throughout the industry that there is a major skills shortage and Harris Pye consequently opened its training school some five years ago at its own expense to nurture home grown talent."

"Since then some 150 young people have passed through the school and a large number have gone on to find skilled work with

Harris Pye and other engineering companies."

"Trainees have the opportunity to join Harris Pye project teams operating all over the globe on a variety of vessels including passenger liners, FPSO's oilrigs and platforms and platforms as well as working on land based contracts so to be in a position of seeing the world and getting paid for it is a real possibility."

"Most of our teams have spent time

operating out of our Dubai, Singapore and Brazilian offices."

"There is the capacity for 12 trainees in the training school to undergo 'hands on' practical tuition under the guidance of a very experienced manager and this is complemented with the additional theoretical skills required."

"At this time the company is also looking to recruit and train potential Health and

Safety technicians for both its workshops and project teams."

"When the trainees reach the required standard they move into the company workshops at Llandow to gain more experience and get involved in more complex work."

Running in parallel with the training school Harris Pye also offers conventional apprenticeships for mechanical engineers, electricians and fitters as well as the graduate programme."

A number of local youngsters as well as more experienced engineers have joined Harris Pye as trainees or project managers and been encouraged to study in order to achieve chartered engineer status."

The Harris Pye Group chief technical officer, Chris David, who was brought up in Llantwit Major and still lives locally, took this route to becoming chartered after serving an apprenticeship followed by a number of years at sea and in industry."

For those joining Harris Pye there is a clear career path for those who display the talent and determination to succeed as well as a desire to travel extensively, and the company says it will invest in those that display these traits."

Applications can be made to: HR Department, Harris Pye Ltd, Hangers 5 & 6, Bona Road, Llandow Trading Estate, Vale of Glamorgan, CF71 7PB.

Oops...Lions lose their May Fair Tug-o'-War Shield!



Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions' 2015 tug-o-war winners

IN May 2015, the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions' team were the winners of the Cowbridge May Fair tug-o'-war competition.

On May 1, Bank Holiday Monday, the Lions will be holding their third bi-annual Cowbridge May Fair following successful events in 2013 and 2015 in the Bear Field, Cowbridge, a

spokesman writes.

It will feature maypole dancing, children's races, fairground, craft stalls, food and drink, a live stage plus a programme of activities on the field throughout the day, including a tug-o'-war competition.

The Lions would very much like to be able to present the winners of the tug-o'-war competition with the Shield – but, unfortunately, it cannot be found! Does anyone

know where it is? If so, please get in touch...

The Lions are pleased to announce that this year, Cowbridge Chamber of Trade are sponsoring a new event – Cowbridge's very own version of the Pamplona Bull Run meets La Tomatina – more details to follow!

If you would like to get involved, either by having a stall, or helping on the day, contact the Lions by email at

info@lmandclions.org.uk or call 0845 833 6763. Over half the pitches are already taken, so please book your pitch as soon as possible."

As a lead up to the May Fair, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions will be holding two events in Cowbridge on Saturday, April 8; a free diabetes screening session in the Lesser Hall from 10am to 1pm and a secondhand book sale outside Caffe Nero from 10am to 4pm.

CROWDS FLOCK TO ENJOY POINT-TO-POINT RACING IN YSTRADOWEN...



THE sun was shining last Saturday, so what better way to spend the day than watching point-to-point racing in Ystradowen! There was plenty of action, thrills and spills, and you can read Brian Lee's report of the day on page 45.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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'Topstak' open day

TOPSTAK, specialists in stoves, cookers, kitchens and lifestyle essentials, are holding an open day at their Vale of Glamorgan showroom in Cowbridge, on April 8.

Special events will include a cooking demonstration on the ever-popular, and hugely versatile, Big Green Egg barbecue and outdoor oven. Anyone who thinks barbecues are all scorched food and smoke will be astounded to see the cooking possibilities presented by chefs' favourite, 'The Egg'.

The famous Big Green Egg taxi will also be putting in a welcome appearance.

Cooking demonstrations on the magnificent Everhot electric range cookers will also be running during the day.

Other attractions include a beautiful new kitchen from Neptune and AGA cookers, a comprehensive display of wood burning stoves, as well as high quality flooring, lighting, and a stunning range of paint.

Women's march

MORE than 100 women will meet tomorrow (March 31) between 6.30pm-9pm at Cardiff University Students' Union, for the annual 'Reclaim the Night Wales' march through Cardiff city centre, calling for an end to violence against women.





GARDENING IN APRIL: Get to grips with growing your own

APRIL is a busy month for gardeners – there's sowing and planting to be done – and it's time to turn your attention to long lost friends such as your vegetable patch, writes SARAH MILNE.

It's a key month for planting vegetables and fruit in the garden, and from now on until late autumn you will be sowing, planting and harvesting.

Finish off sowing seeds for early lettuces, summer carrots, dwarf peas, summer spinach and broad beans and

start sowing beetroot, brassicas (broccoli, cauliflower, sprouts and cabbage), peas, turnips and swede. You can also plant the first early potatoes, weather dependent.

For beginners, some of the easiest fruits to grow are berries. Strawberries and blueberries love containers or open ground and both will crop heavily once established.

A simple garden solution for April is to create your very own veg patch. Mark out the area well, prepare the soil, dig in compost and then sow a variety of seeds that will provide you with veg all year round.

It's a common misconception that you need a lot of space to be able to grow vegetables – you can still achieve real success with container grown plants. Tomatoes will thrive in pots and grow-bags and can also be grown in the ground.

Another plant that loves container life (and being in borders as well) is Lavender – a favourite with gardeners, not just for its beautiful form and fragrance but also because it attracts essential pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

It's considered a romantic flower that most gardeners get the urge to plant in their garden sooner or later and can add real value with its scent and shades of blue flowers and silver leaf backdrop. To successfully grow lavender, it needs to be planted in warm, well drained soil with full sun and can also do well in a container.

April really kick starts the gardening season. Here are some jobs you should be thinking about this month ...

Keep an eye out for

pests – snails and slugs love new foliage as do aphids.

Start feeding plants in the garden from now to the end of the summer.

Sow seeds directly into the soil so they can

flower in the summer.

Plant summer flowering bulbs.

Prune shrubs and trees, apply mulch or manure to flower beds and pots, feed and care for the lawn.



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Try going Dutch at Keltic Fires

FOR a company that is approaching its two-year anniversary on Bridgend Industrial Estate, Keltic Fires has made a definite impact.

Director Matt Richards said that they were delighted with the response from the public.

He said: "When we opened, we were very pleased to be appointed as dealers for Dru – the very well-

regarded Dutch heating company.

"We thought their high-end gas fires would be popular, and that has proved the case. We have seven or eight of their fires on show at any one time."

Matt added that he was pleased that the trade had noted their product range, and as a result, the wholesale side of the business was making excellent progress.

Get your lawn in shape with a visit to Benton's

AS lawns dry out after a typical Welsh winter, Benton Agricultural Services can help you – no matter how big that green space is!

Looking for a new mower? The company has a wide range, covering all requirements, from small family garden mowers to sit on units that will make even the biggest lawn a simple proposition.

Alternatively, if your mower has

been a good worker and just needs a service, then Bentons can get it back in shape for another year.

The company supplies a wide range of agricultural products, including trimmers, hedge cutters and leaf blowers.

A visit to Benton Agricultural Services could make your summer workload much easier.

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NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS FROM YSGOL GYMRAEG BRO MORGANNWG



The choir singing their way to success!

BBC School Report

TWELVE groups of pupils have participated in the BBC News Report initiative. They conducted research and interviews, reporting on issues such as the importance of the PISA tests, the importance of reading, the decline of grass roots sports, the effect of lack of sleep, the poetry of Hedd Wyn and the global role of women.

As a result, seven pupils were invited to the BBC studios for the day and all had the opportunity to read the weather forecast live on BBC Radio Cymru. **Lessons from Auschwitz** YSGOL Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg was recently recognised by ALPS as one of the 25 per cent best schools across the UK for their A-level results.

Based on an analysis of 2,580 schools and colleges, YGBM's A-level performance matched the top 25 per cent with a three-year score underlying the consistency and standard of teaching and learning at the school.

Manon Wiliam and Tom Shivers both visited the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland recently as part of an annual visit arranged by the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project.

Along with Bethan Wyn Jones and another 180 pupils from across Wales, they made a 24-hour visit to Krakow to visit the concentration camp.

Both pupils will now lead a whole school assembly on their experiences.

Public speaking MANY congratulations to the school's victorious public speaking team on winning the Wales regional final of the English Speaking Union.

They will now



compete in the national final at Churchill College, Cambridge on April 22. **Mihangel wins** THE primary sector of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg held its annual eisteddfod on February 28. Following a day of competitions, the victorious house was Mihangel.

Urdd success YGBM pupils competed in the county eisteddfod on March 15 against the Cardiff Welsh medium schools Bro Edern, Plasmawr and Glantaf.

Congratulations to the following on qualifying for the National Urdd Eisteddfod in Bridgend during the Whitsun holidays: Year 7-9: boys solo – Morgan Dryburgh, first; girls solo – Elli Saunders-Jones, first, dramatic presentation, first.

Years 10-13: dramatic presentation, first; girls solo – Llinos Jones, first; individual recitation – Anni Davies, first; duet – Llinos Jones and Manon Parry, first; monologue – Elin Alexander, first; musical solo – Llinos Jones, first; girls choir – first; choir soprano, alto, tenor, bass – first.

As the only three to 19 school in the Vale of Glamorgan, it was also a fantastic achievement for the year-3 and year-4 teams to qualify in the folk dancing competition.

We look forward to the Urdd eisteddfod in May this year!



Manon Wiliam and Tom Shivers



The house captains lifting the shield in celebration of their eisteddfod success.



Twm Aled, Tia Roach and Huw Jones celebrate their victory. Huw (on right) was also voted as 'best speaker' of the ESU competition.



Pictured (left to right): Ioan Davies, Idris Merry, Thomas Pugh, Seren Russell, Rhys Griffiths, Cadi Haf, and Bethan Lee prepare for the morning bulletin.

Nadia and Nelly show off their hairdressing skills...

TWO hairdressing students from Cardiff and Vale College will represent CAVC at the finals of Skills Competition Wales.

Nadia Hadjali, who studies at the college's Academi urbasba at its Barry Campus, and Nelly Tanetah, who is based at the City Centre Campus urbasba in Cardiff, were winners in the Skills

Competition Wales Advanced Hairdressing competition.

The competition was hosted by urbasba in Cardiff and saw colleges from across Wales compete for a place in next month's final.

Nadia has already been crowned Student of the Year 2016 by the Hairdressing Council. Nelly is part of a team of CAVC hair and beauty students who have been awarded a grant by social foundation UnLtd to set up Imagine, a company that makes bespoke

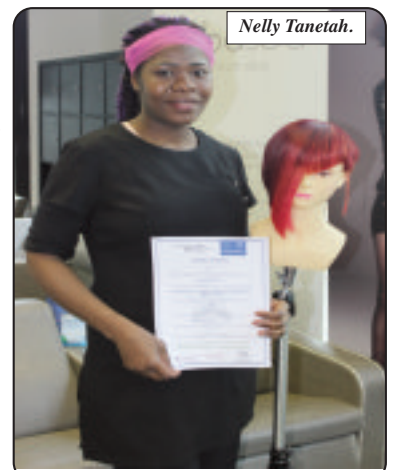
hairpieces at a reduced cost for people who have suffered hair loss through health reasons.

Skills Competition Wales consists of 30 local skills competitions across a range of disciplines. They give students the chance to challenge, raise and benchmark their skills, and competitors can progress to the UK-wide WorldSkills UK competition.

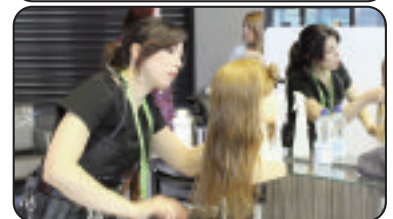
CAVC head of retail and commercial enterprise, Ceri Evans, said: "Nadia and Nelly went up against students from across Wales.

"It takes a lot of hard work and determination to compete against some of Wales' most talented learners.

"We are all hugely proud that they are both going through to the Skills Competition Wales national finals and wish Nadia and Nelly the very best of luck – the pair of them are going to go far!"



Nelly Tanetah.



Nadia Hadjali.

Out & About with The GEM

'Life' is a solid (but predictable) slice of space horror

SPACE has been the final frontier, a place where no-one can hear you scream, and a source of endless interest to filmmakers. The list of space-based films is far too long to even attempt to list, but the latest film to tackle the darkness is *Life*.

It stars Jake Gyllenhaal, Ryan Reynolds and Rebecca Ferguson as half of a six-member crew of the International Space Station who come across the first evidence of extraterrestrial life on Mars.

However, as the crew begins to research the single-cell organism they have discovered, the life form proves more intelligent than anyone ever expected

and puts the crew in severe danger...

The set-up for *Life* is as derivative as they come, a riff on *Alien* with a little more scientific smarts.

However, with a cast comprising of the always-dependable Jake Gyllenhaal, the back to his best Ryan Reynolds and the impressive Rebecca Ferguson, a script by Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick, the twisted minds behind *Zombieland* and *Deadpool*, and solid genre director Daniel Espinosa, you would expect a twist, something that makes it stand on its own two feet rather than the shadow of its more illustrious predecessors.

Ultimately, while *Life* fails to shake off the weight of its inspirations, it still makes for a solid genre film, albeit one where the starry cast carry it

beyond its natural home of 'straight-to-DVD'. It's all too familiar, doesn't subvert expectations nor offer anything new on the whole 'space terror' sub-genre.

Opening with a bold tracking shot around the International Space Station that introduces you to the crew, the space station and their mission, we discover the first evidence of life on Mars; I'm sure the late David Bowie would be relieved that, 46 years later, his question has been answered), before being beamed back down to earth where the alien life form is named Calvin by a school pupil.

After that it's back to space, back to the claustrophobic atmosphere, and as Calvin develops, so does the tension – it's not unsurprising that Calvin isn't destined to spend the rest of the film relaxing in his petri dish, and once he gets out, it's game on.

If Daniel Espinosa has proved to be a solid genre director thus far, then he doesn't spoil that reputation here. Other than that brief detour to earth, the film takes place solely on the

space station which certainly bears comparison to that other film that saw the crew pursued by a creature with desires to off them quick smart, but in fairness to Espinosa, this film has as much *Alien* in its bloodstream as it does *Gravity*.

Writers Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick have certainly done their homework on the genre, and while they do their best to try and grant the characters more depth than your average piece of alien fodder (Gyllenhaal's character has been in space for 470-odd days and hates the idea of going back to earth, the space station's doctor, played by Ariyon Bakare, is wheelchair bound but savouring the ability to defy gravity), it all plays out a tad predictably.

Characters are offed by the dangerous Calvin, and as he kills he appears to grow even more stronger and powerful, yet neither Reese and Wernick's script, nor Espinosa's direction tries to offer anything new nor take the genre tropes and twist them to offer something fresh.

The remaining crew



by
GARETH JAMIESON
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@GEMScreenTalk

members do attempt to science their way out of the situation they're in, rather than use weapons which is a bit different, but there is a definite sense of 'seen-it-all-before' to the film.

This applies to the performances as well, with the headline cast members playing to type. Gyllenhaal is noble yet troubled, his desire to stay in space hazardous to both his physical and mental health (something the

film doesn't explore other than in one dialogue exchange); Reynolds spends his time throwing out wisecracks like they're going out of fashion; while Rebecca Ferguson's icy cool persona (evidence in *Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation* and *The Girl on the Train*) gets another airing here.

The other three cast members have a little bit more to offer – Bakare's scientist showing too much attention and care to the welfare of Calvin (another undercooked plot point), Hiroyuki Sanada's new father (always a red flag in films like this) and Olga Dihovichnaya's Russian commander – but again these are archetypes of the genre rather than characters in their own right.

Given that the set-up for *Life* screamed a film riffing on the likes of *Alien*, it's unsurprising that the end product feels just like that, one that wears its influences broadly and unashamedly, and as

such it makes for a solid schlocky genre film – but one that won't linger with you after the credits have rolled.

VERDICT: Familiar tropes means *Life* is solid but uninspiring, a B-movie that is given a sheen of class by its starry cast. Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick's

script riffs on the likes of *Alien* and *The Thing*. Daniel Espinosa's direction is decent enough, but there's not enough originality on show to make it truly stand out. *Average*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Alien* (1979), *The Thing* (1982).

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D976.

● **£2,000:** 1127602.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £2,000 was not won by this week.**

● **£10:** 4 0 5 9 9 5,
307387, 267032, 566623,
358421, 306508, 445305,
578299, 626030, 684352,
882375, 716130, 957620,
240772, 466621, 338440,
516494, 001296, 000555.

● **£5:** 678776,
166399, 650349, 577368,
459770, 614652, 400533,
820665, 226616, 451589,
905521, 918323, 869223,
534957, 615838, 482525,

153035, 923439, 122032,
679436, 244149, 876940,
185573, 633187, 886167,
331647, 194650, 321812,
263760, 825617, 951910,
942544, 538203, 450012,
739360, 728211, 684118,
539513, 709266, 418300,
667055, 238783, 261046,
368994, 321143, 187560,
864946, 775512, 374534,
824080, 819138,
578159, 304873, 221132,
000978, 000628,
1035018, 1335779,
1985011, 1874440,
1561048.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

A Regular Little Houdini

MULTI-AWARD winning hit show, *A Regular Little Houdini*, written and performed by acclaimed playwright, Daniel Llewelyn Williams, will be coming to Ewenny Priory Church as part of the Ewenny Arts Festival, on Thursday, April 6.

Billed as a "stunning family drama about hope and magic", it is set in Edwardian south Wales. Dockworker's son, Alan, smitten by Harry Houdini, dreams of a life of magic.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

Joint surgery

THE Omore AM and MP, Huw Irranca-Davies and Chris Elmore, are holding a joint surgery on Friday, March 31, at Tesco in Maesteg, 10am to 1pm.

An appointment is not necessary.

Councillors' surgery

LLANTWIT First Independents will be holding a surgery at the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major on Saturday, April 1, from 9.30am-11.30am.

Residents who have any issue to raise are welcome to attend.

Bowls club coffee

Llantwit Major Bowls Club is holding a coffee morning on Saturday, April 1, 10am to 12 noon in the Bowls Pavilion.

Entry is £3 and cakes and books will be on sale. The Llantwit in Bloom Society will attend and hold a costume jewellery and bric-a-brac sale. All proceeds will go to the upkeep of the town library garden.

Care and repair

ARE you elderly, disabled and need advice and support on repairs or home improvements?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding an information session on Tuesday, April 4 from 10am to 12 midday at The Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. No appointment is needed; contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Lions' events

LLANTWIT Major and Cowbridge Lions will be holding a free diabetes screening session in the Cowbridge Lesser Hall from 10am to 1pm on Saturday, April 8.

There will also be a second hand book sale outside Caffé Nero, Waitrose car park, Cowbridge, from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, April 8.

Thrift shop

THRIFT Shop will close for Easter on April 5 and reopens on April 24 at 10am. We wish you all a happy Easter.

Please also note, it will be closed on bank holiday Monday, May 1, but open as usual Tuesday evening and Wednesday.

OCEAN LOUNGE

PORTRHERRY

ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday 1st April

CEASA KAY

Excellent Female Vocalist ★

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TERRY KNIGHT

Vocal Entertainer

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Vocal Instrumental Entertainers

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Every Sunday. Sellers in 12 midday.

Buyers 1pm

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Rhose CF62 3ZP

(01446) 710362/711538

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Saturday 12 noon - 4pm & 7pm - midnight.

Sunday 12 noon - 4pm.

CANOLFAN Y CELFYDDYDAU

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www.memoartscentre.co.uk
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CINEMA LIVE STREAMING THEATRE MUSIC COMMUNITY

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Beauty and the Beast (PG) Fri 7 - Tues 18 April	LEGO Batman Movie (U) Mon 10 - Tues 18 April	Ballerina (U) Thurs 20 Apr 10am
Welsh Wrestling Sat 8 April 7pm	The Little Mix Experience Wed 12 April 6:30pm	Don't Dribble on the Dragon Sun 23 April 2:30pm

LIVE THEATRE: COMING SOON

The Supersonic 70's Show Fri 19 May 7:30pm	Marty MacDonald's Toy Machine Wed 31 May 2pm	Forbidden Nights Thurs 15 June 7:30pm
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FILCO market

EASTER SPECIALS

PROMOTION ENDS 18TH APRIL, 2017

£5
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Kinder
My Little Pony/
Transformers Egg 100g



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Harry Hopalot Milk/White Egg 153g | Butterfly Egg 149g | Footy Fan Egg 149g



Thorntons
Harry Hopalot Milk/White 200g

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£8.69

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Yorkie Mug Egg 350g
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OR 2 FOR
£6



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Galaxy Minstrels Large Egg 252g | Maltesers Teaser Egg 248g
Mars Large Egg 280g | Snickers Large Egg 275g

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Bombay Bad Boy
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65g



£10
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Green & Blacks Milk/Dark Collection 365g | Thorntons Fudge Brownie/Lemon Meringue/Pecan Pie 338/342/350g
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FILCO market

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Filco Supermarkets, 19 Boverton Road, Llantwit Major. CF61 1XZ Tel: 01446 792286 www.filco.co.uk



Barry cadet squadron has some Bake-Off fun!

THE Royal Air Force Cadets of 372 (Barry) Squadron had some great fun, baking cakes to raise funds for Bobath Therapy Centre Wales.

The Bobath charity provides specialist therapies for children throughout Wales with cerebral palsy and needs to raise over £1million each year.

The cadets recently arrived at their squadron headquarters with a wide range of tempting cake creations.

Bobath volunteer John Greenow reported: "The cadets were brilliant, having taken Bobath to their hearts to raise funds. The Squadron Corps of Drums

has performed at the Bobath Wellie walk in Roath Park; the cadets have also helped with bucket collections and the annual Bobath Dragon Boat Race."

Flt Lt Jason Horton said: "One of the perks of being Commanding Officer is being the chief judge, having to taste all these fantastic creations!"

A quiz night will be held at the Market Street Club, on Friday, April 21 at 7pm. Entry is £2 per person with teams comprising a maximum of six people; if you are only a few or on your own, feel free to turn up and join a team.

The event will raise funds for The Royal Air Force Association to support former RAF personnel, and 372 squadron's purchase of a minibus. To register teams or for more information, contact Mr Howard Provis on 07851 643560.

372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 12-17 years old. Call the Squadron on 07486 501864, email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org.uk for more information.

Vale Photo Club tipped for success in competition



THE Vale of Glamorgan Photography Club has been chosen to represent Wales in a UK wide photography competition that will showcase the best of British photography.

To celebrate their selection to represent Wales on a national level, the group are exhibiting their work at the Old Hall, Cowbridge. The exhibition will run for a limited time only, so all club supporters will need

to visit in the coming weeks to avoid disappointment.

Vale MP Alun Cairns who visited the club's exhibition to congratulate the committee, said: "I was extremely impressed by the skill and the expertise of the group's photographers – it is easy to see why they have been chosen to represent Wales in the UK-wide competition!"

"The group are yet another example of dedicated local people using their talent to put the Vale on the map."

Keeping in touch when their mum is in prison

MADELEINE MOON wants it made easier for imprisoned women to maintain contact with their families.

The Bridgend MP spoke in the Commons about the difficulties women in prison face in maintaining family contact.

She said their children often end up in care, or being farmed out to family members who cannot travel long distances.

Mrs Moon said: "In particular, for Welsh

women, children have to travel to England to see their mum in prison. This damages the family cohesion that is so vital to rehabilitation."

Fellow Labour MP Kate Green, said she agreed completely with what Mrs Moon had said.

She said: "Women are usually the main carers of children, and the consequences of their being in custody can be devastating, not only for the women, but for the children – who ought to be our paramount consideration."

AM'S BREAKFAST FOCUS ON STEM PARTNERSHIP



VALE AM Jane Hutt, brought local primary and secondary schools together with some key companies from across the Vale to discuss how they can work to reinforce the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) roles in education and employment in Wales.

She used her annual spring breakfast to focus on how schools and industry could work together to encourage pupils to take advantage of opportunities in science and engineering in Wales. Welsh Government skills and science minister Julie James was guest speaker.

With the breakfast taking place the day after International Women's Day, a number of inspiring female engineers, including Cardiff University Professor of Astronomy

AN EMERALD ANNIVERSARY FOR FLORAL SOCIETY



Joan Kruger talks at the emerald anniversary meeting.

BARRY Floral Society celebrated its emerald anniversary recently, when various flower arrangements by members decorated the hall.

Mrs Joan Kruger, a founder member, gave an interesting talk and demonstration on how the club started.

More than 50 members enjoyed an afternoon tea with a special celebration cake made by members. A complimentary raffle was a special surprise to end an enjoyable afternoon.

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

(GWAHARDD A CHYFYNGU AR FANNAU AROS A LLWYTHO A PHARCIO) (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIAD) (RHIF 4A) 2016

1. Ar 29 Mawrth 2017, gwnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, wrth arfer ei bwerau dan adranau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 a 124 a Rhan IV Adran 9 Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 a'r holl bwerau galluogi eraill, Orchymyn ac mae ei effaith fel y nodir isod.
2. Daeth y Gorchymyn i rym ar 3 Ebrill 2017 neu ar y dyddiadau y gosodwyd yr anwyddion a'r marciau stryd, pa un bynnag yw'r dyddiad hwyraf, ac fe'i gelwir "Gorchymyn (Gorfdi Sifil) (Gwahardd a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros a Llwytho a Pharcio) (Diwygiad) (Rhif 4A) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2016"
3. Gellir gweld copi o'r Gorchymyn a map sydd yn dangos yr ardaloedd yr effeithir arnynt yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau gwaith arferol.
4. Os dymunwch gwestiynu darpariaethau neu ddilysrwydd y Gorchymynion ar y sail nad ydynt yn unol â phwerau a roddir gan y Ddeddf uchod neu nad ydynt yn cydymffurfio ag unrhyw ofyniad ynddi neu offeryn a wnaed oddi tani, gallwch wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw o fewn chwe wythnos o 29 Mawrth 2017.

Bydd y Gorchymyn Rheoleiddio Traffig yn cael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn (Gorfdi Sifil) (Gwahardd a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros a Llwytho a Pharcio) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2013

ATODLEN

Cynnig Gwaredu Mannau Parcio i Bobl Anabl Winsdor Road, Penarth (164) (A163)

Ar ochr y de-orllewin o bwynt 39 metr i'r de-ddwyrain o'r gyffordd ag Andrew Road tua'r de-ddwyrain am 5 metr.

Dyddiwyd y 30 diwrnod o Mawrth 2017.

M. E. Punter

Cyfarwyddwr Amgylchedd a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Yr Alpau,
Gwenfô, CF5 6AA



THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 4A) ORDER 2016

1. On the 29th March 2017 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is to install the disabled persons parking place at the location specified in the Schedule

2. The Order will come into operation on 3rd April 2017 or on the date that the signs and road markings are in place whichever is the later and shall be known as the "Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) (Amendment) (No 4A) Order 2016"

3. A copy of the Order and plans showing the affected areas may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

4. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 29th March 2017 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:
Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

SCHEDULE

Insert Map of the Following Proposed Disabled Persons Parking Place Proposed Disabled Persons Parking Place

Winsdor Road, Penarth (164) (A163)

On its south west side from a point 39 metres south east from the junction with Andrew Road in a south easterly direction for 5 metres

Dated this 30th Day of March 2017.

M. E. Punter

Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Wenvoe CF5 6AA



LOCAL BUSINESSES WARNED: 'Do you know where all your waste goes?'

BUSINESSES across Wales are struggling to do the right thing with their waste, with almost half admitting to practices that mean they are not complying fully with the law.

The Right Waste, Right Place campaign, led by the Environmental Services Association, has commissioned new research into how businesses dispose of waste, and it turns out that almost half of businesses surveyed don't know where all of their waste goes, leaving themselves open to unlimited fines and prosecution.

The same research showed that in 2014-15 there were over 900 fly-tipping incidents in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The national survey by 'right Waste, right Place' - mainly focused on small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs).

It found that in Wales, 43 per cent of businesses didn't know where all their waste goes. Over a third also admitted to not being sure whether they completed or kept essential Waste Transfer Notes, a key requirement.

A spokesperson for the campaign said: "By not complying, businesses risk waste falling into the hands of criminals, leading to environmental, health and safety risks through fly-tipping and illegal disposal."

"Putting the wrong waste in the wrong place can also cause problems with contamination of material destined for recycling, potentially costing businesses money."

In response, the 'right Waste, right Place' campaign is designed to help businesses understand what is expected of them. Centred on an interactive website

(www.rightwasterightplace.com) and run by the Environmental Services Association (ESA), the campaign is supported by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and the Chartered Institution for Wastes Management (CIWM) and offers practical advice on how to manage waste safely and efficiently.

Sam Corp, Head of Regulation at the ESA, commented: "These results back up what we suspected, that small businesses really want to do the right thing but many are ultimately not complying with the law."

"Nearly half told us that they're unsure where the waste goes when it leaves them. Dealing with your waste can fall down the list of priorities when busy, but business people in Wales need to realise that they are risking significant penalties if they do not comply."

"Waste crime is not victimless. Dealing with the results is costing taxpayers millions of pounds each year and waste criminals can harm the environment and put local communities in danger."

Becky Favager, Waste & Resources Manager for NRW, said: "The 'right Waste, right Place' campaign is here to help."

"Small business owners are often stretched, multi-tasking and under pressure. Our campaign provides valuable and easy-to-understand materials that will help them put good practices in place that protect them from breaking the law."

The 'right Waste, right Place' website provides easy to follow advice and guidance in Welsh and English to help businesses achieve compliance.

If businesses need more information or are concerned about waste crime, they can contact

Natural Resources Wales on 0300 065 3000 or visit the website at

www.naturalresources.wales

Help for the blind

ARE you registered blind or are partially sighted or a carer looking after a loved one with sight problems?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding an information session on Tuesday, April 4, 10am to 12 midday with representatives from Cardiff Royal Institute Blind.

It will take place at the Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

No appointment is needed; come and chat to an adviser on what practical aids are available and for further advice. Contact 01446 732385 for more information, or just come along.

GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

(GORFODI SIFIL) (GWAHARDD A CHYFYNGU AR FANNAU AROS A LLWYTHO A PHARCIO) (DIWYGIAD) (RHIF 4) 2017

Rhoddir rhybudd bod Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wrth arfer ei bwerau dan adranau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 a 124 a Rhan IV Adran 9 Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 a'r holl bwerau galluogi eraill yn cynnig gwneud Gorchymyn a fydd yn diwygio'r manau parcio yn y lleoliadau a nodir yn yr Atodlen isod.

Mae modd gweld manylion llawn y cynigion hyn yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau gwaith arferol a rhaid cyflwyno unrhyw wrthwynebiadau a allai fod gennych i'r cynnig hwn i Gyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd a Thai (Cyl.IF760/808) yn ysgrifenedig erbyn 21 Ebrill 2017 a rhaid cynnwys eich rhesymau dros wrthwynebu.

Hysbysir pobl sy'n gwrthwynebu'r Gorchymyn arfaethedig fod cyfrifoldeb cyfreithiol ar y Cyngor hwn, yn sgil Deddf Llywodraeth Leol (Mynediad at Wybodaeth) 1985, i gyflwyno unrhyw sylwadau a dderbynnir yn ymateb i'r Gorchymyn a gynigir yn agored i'w harchwilio gan y cyhoedd.

Bydd y Gorchymyn Rheoleiddio Traffig yn cael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) Gwahardd a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros a Llwytho a Pharcio 2013

ATODLEN

Cynnig Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg

Town Mill Road Y Bont-faen – Map AB27

Ar ben y gogledd-ddwyrain ar ochr y gogledd-orllewin o'r gyffordd â South Gate am 17 metr i'r de-orllewin yn agos at y Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg cyfredol.

Ar ben y gogledd-ddwyrain ar ochr y de-ddwyrain o'r gyffordd â Church Road am 25 metr i'r de-orllewin yn agos at y Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg cyfredol.

Ar ochr ogledd-orllewin Town Mill Road o bwynt 38.6 metr i'r de-orllewin o South Gate am 13.1 metr i'r de-orllewin.

Ar ochr y gogledd-orllewin o bwynt 77 metr i'r de-orllewin o South Gate am 3 metr i'r de-orllewin.

Ar ochr y gogledd-orllewin o bwynt 88 metr i'r de-orllewin o South Gate am 5 metr i'r de-orllewin.

Cynnig diddymu Gwahardd Aros Dydd Llun i Ddydd Sadwrn 8am i 6.30pm.

Town Mill Road Y Bont-faen – Map AB27

Ar ochr y de-ddwyrain o'r gyffordd â River Walk am 153.2 Metr i'r gogledd-ddwyrain.

Cynnig diddymu Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg.

Town Mill Road Y Bont-faen – Map AB27

Ar ben y gogledd-ddwyrain ar ochr y gogledd-orllewin o'r gyffordd â South Gate am 6.4 metr i'r de-orllewin.

Ar ben y gogledd-ddwyrain ar ochr y de-ddwyrain o'r gyffordd â Church Road am 26.8 metr.

Cynnig diddymu Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg

Boverton Road – Map AT23

Wrth ymyl y gilfach anabl y tu allan i rif 7 am tua 8m i'r dwyrain

Stallcourt Avenue – Map AT23

Y tu allan i rif 8 Barons Close i'r gogledd am tua 25m

Cynnig diddymu Gwahardd Aros Dydd Llun i Ddydd Sadwrn 8am i 6.30pm.

Stallcourt Avenue – Map AT23

Ar ochr dwyreiniol y ffordd (yn agos at y GAUA uchod) y tu allan i rif 8 Barons Close i'r de am tua 17m

Ar ochr gorllewin y ffordd, y gyffordd Boverton Road, i'r de am tua 50m.

Boverton Road – Map AT23

O bwynt sydd y tu allan i rif 7 i'r dwyrain am tua 60m i'r gilfan barcio.

Y tu allan i'r siop Filco (ymyl ddwyreiniol y gilfan barcio) i'r dwyrain am tua 25m.

Cynnig diddymu 'Cyfyngiad Aros 1 awr' cyfredol Llun-Sad 8am-6.30pm

Boverton Road – Map AT23

Cilfan barcio y tu allan i'r siop Spar

Cynnig Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg

Stallcourt Avenue – Map AT23

Ar ochr y gorllewin o Boverton Road i'r de am tua 15m i gyd-fynd ag ochr gyferbyn y gyffordd

East Street – Map AT23

Rhwng terfyn eiddo Tŷ Compton a Tŷ Kingswood - tua 3m.

Cynnig 'Dim Llwytho Ar Unrhyw Adeg'

Boverton Road – Map AT23

Rhwng ynysoedd canol y cilfannau parcio, (yn agos at flaenau'r siopau) Hyd cyfan yr holl ynysoedd canol, tua 28m.

Y tu allan i'r siop Spar am tua 20m ac ar ochr gyferbyn y ffordd o'r siop Spar, am tua 10m (yn gylagos at y GAUA wrth gyffordd Stallcourt Avenue)

Cynnig Man Parcio i Bobl Anabl

Boverton Road – Map AT23

Ymestyn marciau manau parcio i bobl anabl cyfredol, 12m y tu allan i'r toiledau cyhoeddus.

Cynnig Man Parcio 'Cyfyngiad Aros 2 Awr' (Llun-Sad 8am - 6.30pm)

East Street – Map AT23

Yn y gilfan sy'n agos at derfyn eiddo meddygfa ddeintyddol i Dŷ Compton - tua 21m.

Yn y gilfan sy'n agos at derfyn eiddo Tŷ Kingswood gan gynnwys mynedfa i'r ochr - tua 10m.

East Street a Boverton Road – Map AT23

Yn y gilfan sy'n agos at derfyn eiddo Tŷ Newton, East Street i rif 1 Boverton Road

Dyddiedig 30 Mawrth 2017

M. E. Punter

Cyfarwyddwr Amgylchedd a Thai

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg

Yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.



THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 4) ORDER 2017

Notice is given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and of all other enabling powers proposes to make an Order, the general effect of which is to amend the parking places at the locations specified in the Schedule below.

Full details of the proposals, may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objections you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Director of Environment & Housing (Ref.IF760/808) in writing by 21st April 2017 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:

Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

SCHEDULE 1

Proposed Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time

Town Mill Road Cowbridge – Map AB27

At the north-eastern end on the north-western side from the junction with South Gate for a distance of 17 metres in a south-westerly direction contiguous with the existing Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time.

At the north-eastern end on the south-eastern side from the junction with Church Road for a distance of 25 metres in south-westerly direction contiguous with the existing Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time.

On the north-western side of Town Mill Road from a point 38.6 metres south-west of South Gate for a distance of 13.1 metres in a south-westerly direction.

On the north-western side from a point 77 metres south-west of South Gate for a distance of 3 metres in a south-westerly direction.

On the north-western side from a point 88 metres south-west of South Gate for a distance of 5 metres in a south-westerly direction.

Proposed revocation of Prohibition of Waiting Monday to Saturday 8am to 6.30pm.

Town Mill Road Cowbridge – Map AB27

On the south-eastern side from its junction with River Walk for a distance of 153.2 metres in a north-easterly direction.

Proposed revocation of Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time.

Town Mill Road Cowbridge – Map AB27

At the north-eastern end on the north-western side from the junction with South Gate for a distance of 6.4 metres in a south-westerly direction.

At the north-eastern end on the south-eastern side from the junction with Church Road for a distance of 26.8 metres.

Proposed revocation of Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time

Boverton Road – Map AT23

Next to the disabled bay layby outside no.7, for approx 8m in an easterly direction.

Stallcourt Avenue – Map AT23

o/s no.8 Barons Close, in a northerly direction for approx 25m

Proposed revocation of Prohibition of Waiting Monday to Saturday 8am to 6.30pm.

Stallcourt Avenue – Map AT23

On the eastern side of the road (contiguous with the above NWAT) o/s no.8 Barons Close in a southerly direction for approx. 17m

On the western side of the road, from the junction of Boverton Road, in a southerly direction for approx. 50m.

Boverton Road – Map AT23

From a point o/s no.7 in an easterly direction for approx. 60m to the parking layby outside Filco store (eastern edge of the parking layby) in an easterly direction for approx. 25m

Proposed revocation of existing '1 hour Limited Waiting' Mon-Sat 8am-6.30pm

Boverton Road – Map AT23

Layby parking area outside the Spar shop

Proposed Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time

Stallcourt Avenue – Map AT23

on its western side from Boverton Road in a southerly direction approx. 15m to match the opposite side of the junction

East Street – Map AT23

Between property boundary of Compton House and Kingswood House – approx. 3m.

Proposed 'No Loading at Any Time'

Boverton Road – Map AT23

Between the centre islands of the layby parking areas, (adjacent to the shop frontages) total length for all centre islands, approx 28m.

Outside the Spar shop for approx. 20m and on the opposite side of the road from the Spar shop, for approx 10m (contiguous with the NWAT at the junction of Stallcourt Avenue)

Proposed Disabled Parking Bay

Boverton Road – Map AT23

Extension to existing disabled parking bay markings, 12m outside the public toilets.

Proposed '2 Hour Limited Waiting' Parking Bay (Mon-Sat 8am - 6.30pm)

East Street – Map AT23

In the layby adjacent to property boundary dental surgery to Compton house – approx. 21m

In the layby adjacent to property boundary Kingswood house including side access – approx. 10m

East Street and Boverton Road – Map AT23

In the layby adjacent to property boundary Newton House, East street to no.1 Boverton Road

Dated this 30th day of March 2017

M. E. Punter,

Director of Environment & Housing

Vale of Glamorgan Council,

The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.



HEROES ALL! Mayor's citizenship awards are presented in Bridgend county borough

OUTSTANDING volunteers, charity champions, an international mental health campaigner, and quick-thinking staff who helped to save the life of a Pyle schoolboy, were among the winners at this year's Mayor's Citizenship Awards, organised by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

The annual awards are held to say 'thank you' to the local heroes who achieved something special during the last 12 months, or who have regularly gone the extra mile over several years.

Mair Ap Gruffydd – the Mair behind Mair's Walk – was one of the winners picking up an award from the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Reg Jenkins.

Mair set up the charity walk in 2007 following cancer treatment, and during the following decade the annual event grew to have a huge following. Thousands of people took part and the events helped to raise an incredible £250,000 towards lung cancer research. The final Mair's Walk was held in 2016.

Another award recipient was **Mark Williams** from the Ogmores Valley who set up the charity 'Fathers Reaching Out' in 2011 to offer support for dads who were experiencing mental health issues.

After his wife suffered a traumatic birth, and consequently had post-natal depression, Mark also plunged into depression. He suffered in silence for six years until he had a breakdown.

Mark has since raised awareness of the issue around the globe, self-funding his trips to talk about mental health in places as far afield as Australia and New Zealand.

After receiving his Mayor's Citizenship Award, Mark said: "It was great to be part of such an event and hear about so many inspirational people. This award has made me want to do even more work to help raise awareness of mental health issues."

Five staff from Pil Primary School – Paula Rowlands, Cheryl Jones, Karen Flower-Robbins, Sarah Wallace and headteacher Neil Pryce – were presented with their Mayor's Citizenship Award after their swift actions helped to save the life of 10-year-old pupil Cameron Tune, who had suffered a cardiac arrest in the foyer of the school.

In those vital early minutes, staff quickly administered first aid including CPR before Welsh Ambulance Service paramedics arrived on scene. After a spell in hospital, Cameron is now thankfully back at school.

Pil Primary headteacher Neil Pryce said: "I can't praise the staff enough for their response in dealing with very serious and life threatening situation. I am immensely proud of their actions on the day."

The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Reg Jenkins, who presented the awards, said: "Each year, the residents of Bridgend county borough are asked to nominate those unsung heroes who make a real difference in their communities. The awards give us a chance to say thanks and give them the appreciation that they deserve."

"It was humbling to hear about their achievements. Congratulations to each and every winner."

In addition to Mair, Mark, and the staff from Pil Primary School, the other Mayor's Citizenship Award winners were:

Lyndon Borge is the caretaker for Bryntirion Infants School, no job is too big or small for Lyndon and he regularly goes beyond the call of duty. He recently built a sensory wall for pupils with autism, runs a fruit and veg co-operative at the school, and coaches football in school and in the community.

Alun Clemett: Alun has been involved in numerous community organisations in Coity over many years, including founding Coity Football Club and leading the annual fundraising event 'Choirs in the Castle', which has raised over £15,000 for local charities.

Elaine Guscott: When a flood affected 50 Garth homes in November 2016, Elaine decided to do something practical to help the community. Within days she set up a flood relief centre in Garth Church, which remained in operation for weeks.

Joanne Keen: An art teacher at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, Joanne has devoted a large portion of her life during the last three years to raise thousands of pounds for a former pupil, Geraint Richards, who was brain damaged after suffering a severe asthma attack in 2014.

Stephen Lambert: As a founder member of the Bridgend Mini Basketball Association, and chairman for the last 20 years, Steve has given up his time to give local children the chance to play basketball and compete in tournaments across the country.

Sean Molino: Provides free health and fitness sessions in schools and youth clubs across Wales to try and slow the ever-growing obesity levels and give children some easy to follow health tips.

Dean Morgan: As the coach and general

manager of Nantymoel Amateur Boxing Club, Dean has helped boxing to flourish in the Ogmores Valley.

The club has produced Welsh champions and provided a space for people to train and develop skills such as discipline and team work.

Andrew Reekie: Tragically, Mr Reekie passed away a week before the awards ceremony.

His citation read as follows: Andrew organised the annual poppy appeal for the Bridgend branch of the Royal British Legion, creating a well-oiled machine that he built up over many years.

In 2015, the branch raised a massive £57,000, an achievement made possible thanks to Andrew's hard work and dedication.

Susan Roberts: An exceptional individual who makes a big contribution to the communities of Cornelly, Maudlam, Pyle and Kenfig Hill through her volunteering and charity fundraising which includes raising approximately £1,000 a year for Motor Neuron Disease charities.

James Thomas: Maesteg's very own Mr Motivator, James set up a running club 15 years ago which is still going strong, making an invaluable impact on the health and well-being of local people.

Sarah Tilley: Passionate about the Ogmores Valley, Sarah has worked hard to reignite community spirit. She revived the annual carnival which hadn't taken place for around 30 years, organised a duck race which sold out within a couple of weeks, and also set up a ladies' choir.

Tina Waters: Tina opened the Nantymoel Animal Welfare Society charity shop 25 years ago and has dedicated her life to helping stray cats and dogs and re-homing them. Even today she has cats in her home that she cares for, and she has helped the charity raise tens of thousands of pounds.

Group winners

Community Furniture Aid: This group of around 15 volunteers make sure that the most vulnerable members of the community have furniture.

Based in Pontycymer, the group source donated furniture and supply them to everyone from single people to families with children.

Cornelly and District Luncheon Club: Volunteers, led by Denise Roberts, provide a two-course meal twice a week at the Cornelly Community Centre for older members of the community.

Paul Downes and Christian Evans: Two of the county borough's most prolific charity champions, Paul and Christian have raised tens of thousands of pounds for numerous charities over the years, including Latch.

Peter and Christine Faulkner: Known as 'Akela' and 'Bosun' to generations of young people, Peter and Christine have decided to retire as leaders of the Bridgend (Cefn Glas) Cubs and Scouts after well over 30 years of dedicated service.

Philip Loveday and Tom Weaver: Since 2013, veterans Tom and Philip have been carrying out random acts of kindness in Bridgend town centre, such as handing out 100 boxes of chocolates to passers-by. The random acts of kindness are their way of reaching out to others to say thank you for the positives in their lives.

Ann O'Keefe and friends: For over 15 years, Ann O'Keefe, Alison Jones, Judith Callaghan, Marilyn Beale, Arthur Beale and Dave Jones have been raising more than £10,000 annually for the Sandville Centre, a north Cornelly charity which provides social and psychological care.

John and Dianne Thomas: The duo's long-term commitment to the Maesteg Hospital League of Friends ensures that one of the most well-loved institutions in Maesteg continues to get the community support it deserves.

For more photos of award winners, go to Page 30.



Philip Loveday and Tom Weaver received an award as a thank you for their 'random acts of kindness'.



ABOVE: Kind-hearted teacher Joanne Keen with her award.



Long-serving scout leaders Peter and Christine Faulkner have been known as 'Akela' and 'Bosun' to generations of young people.



Staff from Pil Primary School with their award.



Mental health campaigner Mark Williams receiving his award from the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Reg Jenkins.



The Mayor presenting a Mayor's Citizenship Award to Mair Ap Gruffydd – the Mair behind Mair's Walk.



Community-minded Elaine Guscott collecting her award.

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THE MEN WHO BUILT BARRY

Retail entrepreneurs of the late 19th century Part II

DAVID LEWIS EVANS (1869-1931) was born in Aberdare, to parents David and Gwenllian, and his father was a grocer in John Street – it was here he would gain his first insight into business as an assistant.

This shop must have been successful, as it

supported three daughters, two sons and a servant in 1881. Ten years later, younger brother William Levi was being privately educated at Monmouth School and in the 1901 census was living and working in Holborn, London, with 40 or 50 other young people as assistants in the drapery business of Wallis & Co.

As events would unfold, it soon became obvious that young

David was blessed with ambition and by 1892, this 23-year-old came bounding into Holton Road, filling his own shop with all manner of drapery, convinced that customers would be enthralled and supportive.

The message at the bottom of his first advert announced that he had just returned from London with stock from the leading fashion houses. This truly was an entrepreneur to be reckoned with, and his extensive sequence of adverts in the local press would illustrate his dynamism.

By 1898, the re-opening of his handsome new store at 104/106 Holton Road, after extensive alterations by local builder Joshua Prout, merely confirmed what the *Barry Dock News* had long realised.

An 1898 picture of the double-fronted store illustrates the scale of the enterprise, but it is not easy to see the detail. There are several ladies in their finery looking into the windows, with the first floor as showrooms and the second floor given over to the workrooms for alterations and

LOCAL HISTORIAN LAURIE OWEN CONTINUES HIS FASCINATING SERIES

bespoke costumes. Etched in the wall at the top it says 'Holton Buildings 1891' and the store can still be seen today (but nowadays as 'New Look').

By 1901, aged 32 and still single, David was living and trading at the store with 12 members of staff, both male and female. Most were draper's assistants, one a milliner, another a dressmaker, a housekeeper and a domestic servant and one young assistant from Kidwelly, Catherine Mary Richards, would soon have her own store after marrying Dan Evans in 1911.

The advent of a new century was an opportunity to raise his profile even higher with the decision to hold a 'gigantic clearance sale'. The press ran with the story, describing him as 'the most daring and enterprising draper in this part of the country

who has always supplied the latest goods at sensational prices and with the smallest margin of profit'.

The article said that there were grave risks attached to this strategy but the 'man at the helm has a cool head, a steady hand and a strong nerve' and had won the confidence of the public.

His philosophy had always been to never promise anything that you cannot deliver and customers soon learned that here was a man to be trusted. His extravagant adverts attracted attention, offered genuine bargains and were always truthful.

In 1908 he expanded into the basement, selling linoleum and carpets and all laid free, which was possibly an innovation at that time.

A story in the press of interest to the older ladies of our generation concerned a Miss

Madge Evans, formerly of the millinery department of DL Evans, who was opening her own business at 1 High Street in 1909 and would be pleased to serve her old and new customers.

Selling millinery, blouses, gloves, corsets and hosiery, she would later move her shop to Holton Road and trade there as 'Hatville' for many years.

As a result of his 20 years of continual hard work and regular promotion of his business, David could now enjoy the trappings of his wealth and by 1911 he was living at 'Brookland', Romilly Park with his widowed mother Gwenllian, who had lost husband David in 1908.

When their mother died in 1915, probate was granted to David and younger brother William Levi, but thereafter little has been found about him within the period of this short story.

No record was found of him marrying but in 1931, David Lewis Evans died at 55 Penylan Road, Cardiff, with probate granted to the Public Trustee,

suggesting that he had no close relatives; yet in 1962 a William Levi Evans died in Cardiff.

Why this dynamic entrepreneur seemed to fade away from the activity in Holton Road sadly remains a mystery, but his ambition, enterprise and courage should be applauded.

With younger brother William Levi privately educated at the prestigious Monmouth School, was it a sense of perceived injustice

and a desire to prove something to his father, or was that merely the spark which spurred David to see what he could achieve on his own?

David Lloyd had the benefit and comfort of working with his two brothers during the early days and Dan Evans came to Barry with his family and had the support of many people when he later began his career.

(To be concluded)

PENARTH MAYOR'S CHARITY NIGHT

An evening of entertainment, in aid of the Penarth Town Mayor's charities, will be held on Friday, April 7 at 8pm in the town's *Page Rooms*.

This year, the charities being supported are Cardiff-based Tros Gynnal Plant, and Care & Repair in the Vale at an evening of Motown classics and northern soul, with Penarth Soul Club, plus a bread and cheese buffet supper, bar, raffle, and dancing.

Tickets, £15, are available from Penarth

Town Council offices; email awoods@penarthtowncouncil.gov.uk or karen.jones@trosgynnalplant.org.uk

Karen Jones from Tros Gynnal Plant, said: "We are really grateful to Penarth Mayor, COUN Mike Cuddy, for choosing us this year and helping us to raise our profile in Penarth. "Tros Gynnal Plant has been helping some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged Welsh children, young people and their families since 2002 when it was set up".

News from Cadoxton (Barry) WI branch

THE third meeting this year of Cadoxton (Barry) WI was held on Monday, March 20.

Several members were absent, due to previous engagements, or ill health.

After the minutes and agenda had been reported, the president asked for nominations for the committee for the annual meeting, which will be held on Easter Monday, April 17 at 10am.

Mr Gavin Davies was the speaker for the evening and he gave a

fascinating talk entitled 'Fragments from France'. Raffles were won by Margaret Davies and Marion Cole.

Thursday included the monthly outing, and members set off for Trostre Retail Park before visiting Llanelli House.

The tour and afternoon tea was excellent. A definite must for a fascinating outing.

Meetings are held every third Monday at 7pm at Victoria Park Community Centre.

Contact the branch on 01446 404891.



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The Mayor's model citizens are honoured as Bridgend county borough says 'thank you all'



Lyndon Borge receives his award.



Anne O'Keefe and friends have fundraised for the Sandville Self Help Centre for more than 15 years.



ABOVE: Stephen Lambert (right) has coached basketball in the county more than 20 years.



Members of Community Furniture Aid receive their award.



James Thomas.



Dean Morgan.



ABOVE: Sarah Tilley revived the Ogmor Valley Carnival and has worked hard to generate community spirit.

'SILENT EPIDEMIC' Loneliness and the elderly

CHRIS ELMORE, MP for Ogmor, supported the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness Older People Spotlight, at a launch event this week in the House of Commons.



The commission outlined practical steps you can take to tackle loneliness amongst older people.

Nine organisations – Age UK, Alzheimer's Society, British Red Cross, Campaign to End Loneliness, Eden Project Communities, Gransnet, Independent Age, Royal Voluntary Service and The Silver Line – are working collaboratively to raise public awareness of loneliness and encourage everyone to act to tackle it.

The MP said: "It is tragic that 1.2 million older people in the UK are chronically lonely, and really worrying, 45 per cent of people aged 65 and over wouldn't know where to turn if they're experiencing loneliness.

"Although there is no quick fix or single policy solution to eradicate loneliness, there are reasons to hope that we can change things for the better.

"The Commission aims not to simply highlight the issue of loneliness, but more importantly act as a call to action. Under the slogan 'start a conversation', its goal is to mobilise us all to help our neighbours, family and friends – whether it be talking to a neighbour, visiting an old friend, or just making time for the people you meet."

The MP added: "Loneliness is a silent epidemic across the UK. We all need to act and encourage older people to freely talk about their loneliness.

To find out more about the Commission, or how to get involved in tackling loneliness in the community, visit www.jocoxloneliness.org

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mr Byrne continued: "I have grave concerns that it will only be a matter of time before a motorist, pedestrian or cyclist is killed by an out-of-control vehicle at this roundabout."

Mr Byrne has taken his concerns to Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and his MP, Madeleine Moon, and his local community council.

At the time of going to press, he has not received a response from BCBC, although Mrs Moon replied suggesting that Mr Byrne contact the Assembly Member for

Bridgend, Carwyn Jones.

Mrs Moon also said she had contacted Mr Byrne's representative on the borough council, Coun Pam Davies.

The MP wrote: "I am assured by her that she has already made a referral to Highways at BCBC, whom I understand will contact you directly to discuss your concerns."

Mr Byrne has also been in contact with his local councillor, Cheryl Green of Laleston Community Council.

"She has agreed to meet me in the next week or so at the roundabout to see for herself just what it's like."

Betws Life Centre drinks application

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The police objection – and letters received from some local residents – stressed that the centre was near local primary schools.

NSA Afan's application envisages a wide range of events being staged at the club, including social functions such as birthday parties, and sporting events such as boxing or wrestling.

At a licensing committee meeting on Monday (March 27) a decision was deferred until a later date.

The GEM asked NSA Afan Community Group to comment but, at the time of going to press, no response had been received.

Reader sounds alarm bells about danger of roundabout

Of BCBC he said: "As a local authority it must have a direct responsibility to provide a duty of care and as such must take all reasonable steps to ensure the roads and pavements are safe for everyone to use."

He went on to say that he thinks BCBC has "...fallen woefully short of its duty of care at this roundabout when so many road-traffic collisions have taken place here, endangering both road users and pedestrians."

Mr Byrne has made a number of suggestions to improve safety at the approaches to and on the roundabout.

These include: A signed 'reduced speed limit (40mph)' for the roundabout rumble strips across the road to slow drivers on approach, improved signage, road markings and road lighting, and pavement safety barriers on all sides of the roundabout to protect pedestrians should an accident happen.

The GEM put Mr Byrne's concerns, and suggestions, to BCBC.

A spokesman replied: "We recently commissioned an independent road safety report along this stretch of the A48, and are currently seeking funding that will enable us to undertake recommendations that are considered to be appropriate."

"In the meantime, readers can be assured that the council is committed towards ensuring the road remains safe to use."

Mr Byrne said: "So often, when I am out walking my dog and passing the roundabout, I see fresh skid marks or evidence of a vehicle mounting the kerb."

"I think to myself, 'Oh my God; not again!'"

What do other GEM readers think? Please send your observations to editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk and include your name, address and telephone number.



An image of the roundabout on the A48 from Google Maps.

Council says it is ready for new coins

THE new 12-sided £1 coin will cause no problems with council-owned pay and display and parking metres, a spokesman has said.

Newer parking machines, such as those installed at the recently-opened Rhiw Car Park in Bridgend, were capable of taking both old and new coins, so no work has needed to be done there.

A spokesman for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) said: "Work has been completed on all the BCBC-owned machines, and they are now compatible with the new coins."

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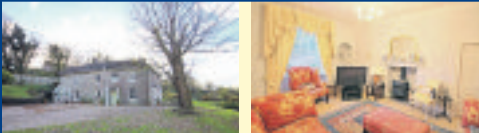
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- Garage
- Good size gardens

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- End of terrace property
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- Dual aspect lounge
- Attractive gardens

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- Immaculately presented
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- Five bedrooms
- Annexe potential
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- Five bedroom property
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- Sea views

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- SHOW HOME
- PRESENTATION
- OFF ROAD PARKING

**£209,950****GOLWG Y COED**

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- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- LINKED DETACHED
- BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED

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- WEST END LOCATION
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2 Romilly Views, Barry - £189,950

- Two bedroom ground floor apartment set in an exclusive gated community
- Open plan living room and kitchen enjoying views of the Bristol Channel and Devon coastline
- Situated on the desirable Park Road in the West End of Barry



83 Jenner Road, Barry - £199,950

- Well-presented and maintained three bedroom, bay front residence
- Panoramic views across Barry Island, Bristol Channel and coastline beyond
- Situated in the West end of Barry and in catchment area for Romilly School



1 Adar Y Mor, Barry - £195,000

- Well-presented and maintained three bedroom link detached residence
- Driveway providing off road parking for two vehicles with access to garage
- Situated on Barry Island within walking distance to beaches and train station



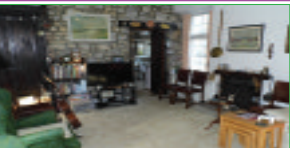
122 Fontygary Road, Barry - £249,950

- Three double bedroom semi-detached property set on a generous plot
- Large gardens to front and rear with driveway for up to five vehicles and garage
- Situated in the sought after rural village of Rhosce. NO CHAIN



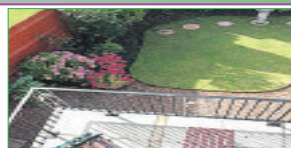
Harbour Cottage, Barry - £275,000

- Rare to the Market... Built in 1871 this three/four bedroom detached residence benefiting from a coach house and sea views
- The two storey coach house, formerly housed Lord Romilly's horse and coach
- Situated in the highly desirable West end of Barry close to all local amenities including High Street/Park Crescent shops and Barry train station providing links to Cardiff and Bridgend.



16 Ffordd Cwm Cidi, Barry - £294,995

- Four bedroom detached residence situated on the highly desirable Woodlands Rise
- Driveway providing off road parking for two vehicles leading to garage
- Situated in the West End of Barry and offered for sale with no chain



13 Colcot Road, Barry - £344,950

- Extended, spacious and beautifully presented three double bedroom detached residence built in 1928
- Large garden approx. 300ft, driveway providing off road parking for numerous vehicles and garage
- Situated towards North of Barry



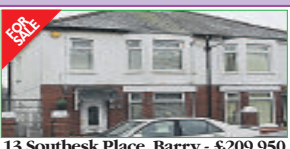
19 Whitehouse, Barry - £344,950

- Rare opportunity to acquire this two bedroom mid link residence
- Panoramic views across the Pebble Beach, Bristol Channel and Somerset coastline beyond
- Situated on the desirable Whitehouse development perched on the edge of The Old Harbour



19 Lakeside, Barry - £375,000

- Well presented, four bedroom semi-detached residence
- Small driveway leading to secure carport and stone's throw from the Old Harbour.
- Situated on the Knap overlooking the lake, gardens and Bristol Channel beyond



13 Southesk Place, Barry - £209,950

- Three bedroom semi-detached property set in a cul de sac location
- Enclosed forecourt and well stocked, beautifully presented south facing rear garden
- Situated in the sought after Knap area, West end of Barry. NO CHAIN



13 Earl Crescent, Barry - £139,950

- Three bedroom end link property set in a cul de sac location
- In walking distance of primary schools, shops, beaches, cafes and train station
- Situated on the popular Barry Island and offered for sale with no chain



30 Byrd Crescent, Penarth - £224,950

- Three bedroom semi-detached property set on a generous corner plot
- Driveway providing ample off road parking and close to local amenities
- Situated in the desirable Penarth with easy access to Cosmeston Lakes and Penarth Promenade



71 Nant Talwg Way, Barry - £299,950

- Four bedroom detached residence providing generous accommodation
- Enclosed rear garden, open plan front garden with driveway and garage
- Situated on the popular Nant Talwg development in the West end of Barry



4 Romilly Park Road, Barry - £325,000

- Extended, three bedroom semi-detached residence benefiting from a loft room
- Enclosed gardens to front and rear with driveway and garage
- Situated in the highly desirable Romilly Park area, West end of Barry



14 Y Cerigos, Barry - £328,000

- Well presented, three double bedroom ground floor apartment with stunning views across the Knap, Bristol Channel and Somerset coastline
- Decked balcony and two allocated parking spaces
- Situated on the edge of the highly desirable Knap Gardens and Pebble Beach



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A vintage day – first spring ploughing and hedging match hailed a success at Gileston!



PHOTOS by GLYN EVANS

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THIS EVENT.

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THE Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society could not have picked a better day than Saturday, March 25, to stage the annual ploughing match at Gileston Farm, Vale of Glamorgan, by kind permission of Mr R Thomas and Son.

The society had originally decided not to stage a ploughing match this year as the All Wales Championship event will be coming to Boverton in September.

However, due to popular demand, it was decided to run a spring match for the first time.

The weather and ploughing conditions were ideal, and more than 40 tractors and ploughmen/women competed.

The two judges, Mr AM Williams and Mr A Lucas, commented on the good standard of workmanship on the day. Quite a number of the tractors and ploughs competing in the Vintage Class were well over 80 years old – with a couple of ploughmen to match!

Many of the ploughmen/women had travelled a good distance to compete: from Hereford, Oxford, Devon and west Pembrokeshire, and included a visit by the chairman of the Ferguson Club, Peter Aston, and his friend Andy Ford.

The event started at 10am and by 3.30pm, all the prizes were presented. The chairman, Andrew Studley, thanked all those taking part and also thanked the judges for carrying out their

duties.

In addition the stewards were thanked, particularly Phil Ricketts who has supported the society's matches for many years. Again, thanks went to Martyn Huish and his many helpers for supplying everyone with tea, coffee, bacon sandwiches and Welsh cakes throughout the day.

The prizes were presented by Andrew Studley, as follows: Ferguson Model T20 Class ("the little grey Ferguson") produced by Harry Ferguson between 1946 and 1956 and run under the Ferguson Club Rules – 1st H Enoch, Hereford; 2nd Phil Jones, Caerphilly; 3rd Basil George, Ogmore Village; 4th John Eaton, Oxfordshire.

Trailer Ploughs – 1st R Vaughan; 2nd J Pritchard; 3rd M Yates; 4th E Jones.

Hydraulic Ploughs – 1st J Cole; 2nd J Jacobs; 3 H Hoyle.

Class 7 – 1st R Matthews; 2nd T Lougher; 3rd A Llewellyn.

Classic – 1st C Pugh; 2nd T Bradley; 3rd M Franklin.

Vintage – 1st J Isaacs; 2nd J Long; 3rd E Thomas; 4th P Batchelor; 5th J Williams.

The Glamorgan Trophy was won by Jeremy Isaacs, Groesfaen.

Harvey George of Nottage was presented with the Novice Trophy. Harvey was the youngest ploughman on the field, competing in his first ploughing match under the watchful eye of his great-grandfather David George.

A vote of thanks was proposed to the chairman and his wife for the amount of work

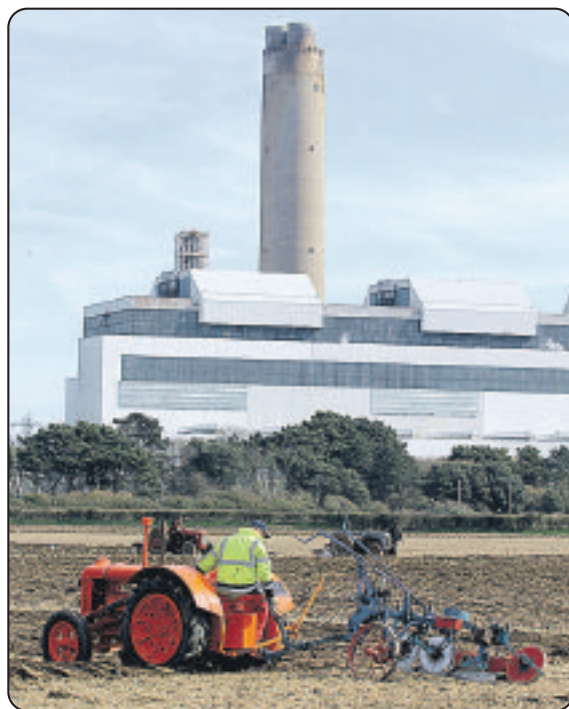
put into running the society and also to the secretary, Sarah Radcliffe and the treasurer, Rhys Morgan.

The number of visitors and spectators were down on previous years but those who turned up to see craftsmen at work, had a very pleasant couple of hours.

The next big event is the Welsh Ploughing Association's All Wales Championship, which will be held on September 16-17 in Boverton.

Further information on this event can be obtained from the association secretary, Jane John, on 07809 050635.

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Family Notices

ROGERS**June Patricia**

Née Bennett (Formerly Brennan)

The family wish to announce the sad passing of June on March 18th at the University Hospital Of Wales. Beloved wife of the late Derek (Rod) and much loved mum of Ticia, Richard, Robert, Tina, Jane and David. A respected mother-in-law, cherished nan and great nan to all her grandchildren.

She will be greatly missed by all her family and close friends.

June is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at St Peter's Church, Lettons Way, Dinas Powys on Friday, April 7th at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family floral tributes only - donations if desired may be made at the service or via June's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk, where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages and memories.

All donations received to support Marie Curie Hospice.

BOWLES**Joan Theresa (née Harris)**

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Joan, who passed away peacefully on March 23, 2017, after a short illness which she faced with dignity and courage. Beloved wife of the late Kenneth, much loved mother of Roger and Julia, adored grandmother of Daniel, Emma, David and Rhianydd, precious great-grandmother of Sam and Lucia.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday, April 5, service 2pm at St Mary's Church, Penmark, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations in lieu, if desired, may be sent to The Dogs Trust c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhooose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ

SCOTT
Clive

Peacefully at his home in Llantwit Major, but formerly of Barry Island, surrounded by all his loving family on March 18th. Clive, dearly beloved husband of Heather, much loved dad of Laura, Phyllis, Deborah and Raymond. Adored grandfather to all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service in the chapel on Friday, March 31st at 10am, followed by cremation at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 11am. Family flowers only but donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Tower, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

Birthday
Memories**LOVING BIRTHDAY MEMORIES ANZANI**

1st April 1929

Sending a box full of hugs and kisses to my darling husband and best friend on his special day.

Happy Birthday my darling Mario.

Love you forever.

Your loving wife Eileen xx

Thinking of you today Dad

on your 88th Birthday.

Love always

Gina, Richard, Nicola, Gareth and Luca xxxxx

No Birthday cards today dear Dad

but lots of great memories,

Of the many great birthdays we celebrated

when you were here with us.

Love you always Mario, Amanda, Rhianne xxx

Birthday hugs and kisses to the best Dad and Bampy ever! Happy birthday in heaven dear Dad and Bampy, forever in our hearts. Love Carmen and Bethan xx

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Family Notices

HILL

Stephen Edward

On March 24 at Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre, Penarth, surrounded by his family, Steve of St. Athan, beloved husband, father and grandfather.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday April 6, service 1pm at St. Athan Church, followed by interment in St. Athan Cemetery. Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

HAWKINS

Maureen

Peacefully at home on Tuesday, 21st March 2017; Maureen (Mo) of Colwinston, Cowbridge. Beloved wife of Bob, dearly loved mother of John and Kate and a treasured grandmother of Soph, Robbie and Laura.

Funeral on Friday, 31st March 2017. Service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm. Family flowers only with donations in lieu, if desired, to Cancer Research Wales c/o Penybont Funeral Services, Meadow Street, Bridgend. Tel 01656 650831.

HINDLEY

Edna

Peacefully on March 22 at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, after a long illness, Edna of Rhosce. Beloved wife of Mike, loving mother of Lewis, dead mother-in-law of Laura, devoted grandma of Harry and Bethany.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, April 4, service and cremation 3pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home, or donations in lieu, if desired, to Stroke Association c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

PIDDUCK

Alfred (Alf)

Peacefully on March 21 at the University Hospital of Wales, aged 92 years, much loved dad of Jill, proud grandad of Gareth, Bethan and Dewi, dearest brother-in-law of Ron and Beryl.

A very special man with a love of life and a generosity that endeared him to so many people.

Funeral service at All Saints' Church, Penarth at 10.45am on Monday, April 10, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations if so desired to RNLI (Barry Dock) c/o Funeral Director, James Summers & Son, Lavernock Road, Penarth, CF64 5UP.

Acknowledgements

BRAUND

William (Bill)

Joyce and family wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kind support and messages of sympathy following the sad loss of Bill.

Special thanks to A.G. Adams & Son for their care and funeral arrangements, Father Kevin Lake for the comforting service, the staff of College Fields Care Home for their loving care of Bill, the staff of the West End Club and Maggie for the lovely refreshments.

Many thanks also for the kind donations received in respect of Alzheimer's and Dogs Trust.

WHITELEGG

William

All our family give thanks to all those who cared for Bill over the last years of his life. So many people helped in ensuring he stayed in his home as long as possible and also ensured his last days were comfortable. Our heartfelt thanks to you all. Also thanks to all those who attended Bill's funeral and gave him a wonderful send-off and both the Old Swan and West House for all their support.

Finally our thanks to both Adams of Barry and Browns of Llantwit Major for conducting his funeral so professionally and making it so personal and to Edwin Counsell for his thoughtful service. Bill would have been proud that the RNLI benefited so well from the generous donations.

"Just Gone Around The Next Corner".

MARSHALL

Terence Rae

Suddenly on March 18, Terry of Rhosce, beloved husband of the late Penny, loving dad of Rik and Darren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday April 4, service and cremation 11am at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Macmillan Nurses c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

DUNCAN

Paul

Peacefully after a short illness on March 16 at Llandough Hospital, much loved son of Marian and Campbell, loving brother and uncle.

He will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, April 7 at 2.15pm. Flowers may be sent to J.R. & M.F. Davord, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB.

GIBBON

Stephen Elliot

Sadly, after a short illness, Stephen, aged 53 years, passed away on 22 March 2017. A loving and caring husband of Trish, amazing dad of Harry, much loved son of Mal and the late Mary and dear brother of Darren.

Steve will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Wednesday, 5 April 2017 at 10am, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for the Critical Care Unit, the University Hospital of Wales c/o the funeral director.

Anniversary Notices

Happy Golden Anniversary

50 years
on 31st March 1967

Jo & Tony Meakin
(Mum & Dad)

Have a great night on Friday at St Athan Golf Club
Loads of love for now and always

Love from Jacqueline, Colin &
Tom and all the family xxx

Ayres/Maurice

Diamond Wedding Anniversary!

Monday 3rd April

Happy anniversary to my darling husband Brian. 60 wonderful years!

What would I do without you

Your loving wife Shirley
xxx

Happy Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Thursday 30th March

Pamela and Melvyn Davies

Congratulations on your anniversary



Lots of love
Andrew & Pam, Gemma
& Dan, Richard & Jess,
Bradley & Emma, Ellie,
Rhys, Jac, Grace, Amelia
& Noah xxx

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Public Notices

SIÂN ELIZABETH REES (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 1 Eagleswell Cottages Eagleswell Road Llanhar Major Vale of Glamorgan CF61 1UD, who died on 05/03/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 09/06/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

PASSMORES
21 Tynenydd Road Barry
Vale of Glamorgan CF62 8HB 787329

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

L T Scaffold Services Limited of Unit 15b, Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry, South Glamorgan, CF63 3RF is applying for a licence to use 6A2 Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry, South Glamorgan, CF63 3RF as an operating centre for 5 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

The sun shines on Cowbridge RFC's massive rugby festival



IN the glorious March sunshine last weekend, Cowbridge RFC mini and junior section held their inaugural rugby festival and tournament.

The event was a tremendous success, attended by 1,212 players over the two days. Thirty clubs fielded 101 teams in age groups from under-7s to under-14s, travelling from far and wide across south Wales, from Haverfordwest and Fall Bay in the west, to Caldicot in the east and up to Builth Wells and everywhere in between.

It may surprise you to know that our little town of Cowbridge has the largest number of mini and junior players in any club in Wales and most were on show this weekend, with Cowbridge teams entered in all age groups (and multiple teams in some).

After generously offering us the use of its fabulous sporting facilities, Cowbridge Comprehensive School provided the perfect venue, with the whole event contained on the single site.

Games of rugby were going on in all directions as far as the eye could see, with as many as 11 at any one time!

The club is extremely grateful to the local business community who really got behind the event and supported us with sponsorship and advertisement. Special thanks must go to The Place for Homes for being the overall tournament headline sponsor and HRT Estate Agents for their continued support of the club.

In true Cowbridge spirit, over 100 parents volunteered at the event in roles as varied as controlling the massive

number of vehicles coming to the site, ensuring the 300 or so games of rugby ran to schedule, right through to picking up litter at the end.

The volunteers were essential to the success of the event and the club has received many texts, emails and tweets from other clubs thanking everyone for their warm welcome and for the immense effort put in to ensure the event ran smoothly.

We were not only blessed by the weather, but were also lucky enough to be joined by several dignitaries over the weekend, including mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Stuart Egan, the mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Liz George and her consort, Chris George, the youth mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Daniel Marshall and the Secretary of State for Wales, Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP.

Much to everyone's delight, the Welsh international, Gethin Jenkins also popped in to watch a few games, having countless selfies taken along the way, before sharing the presentation duties with Mayor George.

The best performance for a Cowbridge side came from the under-12s. Working hard through a tough group of pool games and semi-final, they met local rivals, Llantwit Major in the final.

After a closely-contested game, and in a fitting end to the tournament, Cowbridge ended up victorious to lift the trophy, much to the delight of the large partisan crowd.

AL

The Vale Schools under-15s rugby round-up



THE Vale School Under-15s' unbeaten run came to an end against Pembroke Schools in atrocious weather.

Decimated by a sickness bug and with several players out of position, they went down to a late converted try. Given the conditions, both teams played some lovely rugby which was a pleasure to watch.

The Vale's tries were scored by Will Hardy and Benji Williams.

During the half-term holidays the team soon got back on track, winning a round-robin tournament at Merthyr RFC beating Cardiff Schools 20-0, Cynon Valley Schools 15-5 and Pontypridd Schools 10-0.

Next up in the Dewar Shield were Bridgend Schools in another Friday night fixture.

Will Hardy opened the scoring with a lovely try converted by Jamie Howells, and further tries soon followed.

Aled Rees powered over in the corner, while Benji Williams, Iestyn Galton and Evan Lloyd all scored a brace.

Galton's first try was a gem, as Tristan Thomas caught the Bridgend restart and popped the ball to Evan Lloyd, who swiftly passed to Iestyn, who ran the try in from just inside the Vale half.

Rhys Gentles rounded off the scoring with a well-taken try late in the game, the final score Vale 55, Bridgend 5.

Then the team faced

Swansea Schools. Swansea opened the scoring with an early try but the Vale came back with a try from Will Hardy, and another from Aled Rees.

A third try from Iestyn Galton with a conversion from Jamie Howells increased the Vale lead to 17-5, but Swansea then came back with a lovely try, the Swansea fly half chipping the ball over the Vale defence, gathering his own kick and scoring.

From the restart the Vale pressured the Swansea line – a penalty was awarded and despite the awful wind, rain and acute angle, Howells sent the ball soaring between the uprights.

The second half saw the Vale repeatedly attack the Swansea line, dogged defence keeping them out until Christian Brooke powered over for the Vale's final try, for a final score of 25-10.

Despite the abysmal conditions the standard of rugby played was a credit to both teams.

This win leaves the Vale in second place in the table and having faced Pontypool last Friday, their final league match will be this week away against league leaders Rhondda Schools.

As always, many thanks to the parents and coaches for their constant support, and thanks also to our sponsors Apricot Online.

You can follow the team's progress in the competition on Twitter - @ValeSchoolsU15.

MV

Bowls club is looking ahead to season

PENARTH Belle Vue Bowls Club are looking forward to the start of a new season in this their one hundred and second year.

Club chairman David Purser said: "Following a successful season in 2016 when we were promoted in the Cardiff and District League, together with some excellent results in other competitions, we approach the start of this season with a degree of optimism."

"Belle Vue is a small, friendly club, situated in the lovely surroundings of the Green Flag-awarded Belle Vue Park, in Penarth."

"We have three qualified coaches and this helps make this club a very good choice - whether you just want to give the game a try or just need some advice to 'fine tune' your game. No obligation and no charge... you just need some flat, soft soled shoes. Practice day is Monday - from around 2pm to early evening."

"We have an opening day on Saturday, April 15 (Easter weekend) from 2pm with a short 'roll-up' - weather permitting - followed by a club meeting."



Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

THE latest results for the Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for week commencing March 6:

First division: Cigar Ladies (L Coleman 32) 285; SV Gals (J Richards 30) 290; Bobby's Girls (A Seldon 23) 222; Pila Palas (P Barnett 29) 266; Family Affair (A Price 31) 215; Family and Friends (T Norris 27) 248; Space Finder (M Clark 38) 340; Baker's Dozen (J Mullins 31) 295; Red Admiral (L Beswick 27) 248; Special Angels (R Niblett 28) 228; Allsorts (S Tierney 30) 255; Barry Stars (W Phillips, J Green 25) 250; Colcot Ladies (H Edwards 25) 211; Coppers (D Burrows 29) 277.

Second division: S V Lights (P Forrester, D Thomas, B Kenefick 30) 290; Castle Bandits (J McAndrew 31) 261; Fallen Angels (S Jones 26) 265; Cad Con Fillies (T Clements 28) 272; Clickies (M Williams 32) 316; After Eights (K Carmichael 32) 226; Breakaways (C Parfitt 34) 312; Witchill Weebies (T Edwards 31) 300; Merry Makers (A Hawkins, E Page 22) 213; Witchill Widows (G McCarthy

24) 180; Airways Angels (E Lewis 28) 246; Starlights (J Ocknell 32) 273.

Third division: Etcetera (S Dyke 27) 239; Little Devils (L Boucher 25) 222; Dolly Mixtures (C Abbott 26) 224; Vixens (P Taylor 29) 228; Witches (P Cookson, S Beer 25) 235; Rebels (S Collier 27) 201; La Belles (N Cordy 34) 313; Rugby Triers (C Jenkins 35) 324; Hill Billies (M Brinkworth 35) 306; Westenders (M Condon 34) 288; Twilights (M Saunders, C Sims, P Govier, C Brown 21) 198; Challengers (L Morgan, A Richards, J Diamond 23) 225.

Fourth division: Odd Bods (T Ceriani 23) 178; Nite Outers (L White 22) 191; Hell Raisers (S Norris 24) 211; Optimists (G Ball 26) 197; Liberals (K Stevens 25) 196; Off The Rails (S Doughty 27) 244; Persuaders (M Whitehurst 26) 220; Living On A Spare (A Finn 23) 190; Guardian Angels (S Aston 27) 197; Aristocrats (B Tamlyn 25) 204; Socialites (P Starr 31) 292; Boozy Birds (S Rudaforth, L Weaver 29) 274.

The next secretary's meeting will be on April 3 at Cadoxton Conservative Club.

BARRY BEAVERS ENJOY SUCCESS AT HOME GALA

ON Saturday, March 25, Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club held their home gala at Barry Leisure Centre.

There were new members to the team who did really well on the day, as Keira Dyne and Jamie King both won gold in their first swimming gala with the club. Also Abby, Louis and Heather all won gold.

The silver winners were Philip Daly, Ffion Jones and Sarah Davies, while bronze medallists were Becky Mae, Adam Lawrence, Jack Kemp and the senior relay team of Philip Daly, Kyle S, Nicholas and Mark E.

All other swimmers from the team improved their times and did themselves and the team proud on the day.

Medals were presented by the Mayor of Barry, Coun Charlotte Williams, Asda representative, town council representatives and all other backers to the club.

Also the club would like to thank Asda and the community chest scheme, both of whom recently presented cheques to the club to allow us purchase new hoist chairs for the club.

NC

Penarth Hockey Club round-up

DESPITE two promotions having already been confirmed, the final flurry of GoCrea8 League fixtures continued to hold the attention of Penarth Hockey Club as the second XI chased a result that would confirm their own ascension from De Cymru 1.

PENARTH A 2, BRIDGEND A 0

After trailing their final weekend opposition by six points midway through the season, Penarth's second XI knew that they would need a strong second round of fixtures to have any chance of promotion from De Cymru 1 12 months on from the campaign that saw them win De Cymru 2 and reach the final of the Welsh Challenge competition.

Fortunately, a much-improved record since the start of 2017 had seen the Bears lose just one game in ten, allowing them to claw back the points deficit and set up a final day high noon shootout with Bridgend.

Having edged ahead of their rivals in the standings, Penarth knew that, if they could avoid defeat, they would retain second place in the division and join the club's first and third XIs in achieving promotion in what has been another successful campaign for the rejuvenated Penarth set-up.

With so much riding on the game for both sides, it was always going to be a fiery encounter and the tone was set from the off, with both teams guilty of early offences that raised tensions even further.

It was Bridgend who started the better, however, capitalising on some early Penarth mistakes to create a series of half-chances, which were comfortably kept out by goalkeeper Simon Comfort, before the home side eventually found their footing.

Once the Bears had settled down, they were able to control possession, and the momentum swung in their favour as they started to create chances of their own.

The Vale side came closest to breaking the deadlock via a string of penalty corners, with Dave Stevens having two efforts cleared off the line and Richard Baker firing a rebound goalwards until it hit one of his own players and deflected to safety.

With Penarth dominating possession, Bridgend looked most dangerous on the counter, and broke quickly whenever they won turnover ball.

However, the visitors were denied any clear-cut shooting opportunities by some fantastic tackling from Andy Strong, Craig Llewellyn and Jamie Davison, who ensured that the game remained level – and scoreless – at the break.

Penarth knew that, if they could outwork the Bridgend team, gaps would start appearing and they would get the goal they needed.

Despite seeing an early effort ruled out by the umpires, the Bears continued to take the game to their opposition and the breakthrough eventually came as a fierce strike from the edge of the 'D' found the net to make it 1-0 just minutes later.

Needing to win to retain any hope of promotion, Bridgend now needed to score twice, while Penarth knew that another goal would all but kill off the encounter and allow them to secure a second successive promotion.

With Sams Docherty and Salisbury providing energy in midfield and Dave Stevens industrious down the right flank, Phil Lane and James Kidby both came close to adding a second before the crucial goal was scored, Chris McCarthy linking up with Baker, who fired past the hapless Bridgend keeper to make it 2-0 midway through the half.

Bridgend refused to go quietly in a feisty confrontation, and pushed hard for a way back into the match, but the openness of the game suited Penarth and they could have added a third goal, with both Sam Chick and Tom Parkinson going close in the latter stages.

Surviving a late penalty corner that briefly threatened their clean sheet, Penarth saw out the final minutes to secure both a deserved victory and promotion to De Cymru & The Marches 2 for 2017-18, providing a fitting send-off for captain Sam Chick and vice-captain Jamie Davison, who have signalled their intention to step down ahead of the new campaign.

PENARTH 7, YATE 1

Penarth's senior team travelled to Yate for the final call of the 2016-17 league campaign but despite the game

effectively being a dead rubber – with the Bears already promoted as champions and Yate doomed to relegation – the visitors were still keen to keep their winning streak intact and maintain good form heading into the semi-finals of the Welsh Trophy the following Saturday.

From the first whistle, Penarth were clearly the class act, moving the ball about with ease and creating chances at will.

It was only a matter of time before the visitors would convert one such chance, Dave Kidby finding space at the near post and sweeping home from a tight angle to open the scoring.

Yate had shown on a few occasions already that they could create chances of their own and, guilty of relaxing after scoring the opener, Penarth were caught on the counter before a clever one-two in the 'D' left goalkeeper Adam Putt with no chance of preventing the equaliser, having already bailed the Bears out on several occasions.

Penarth knew that, when they moved up through the gears, there was little Yate could do to keep them at bay, and the Vale side quickly restored their lead, going straight back on the attack to win a penalty corner from which injector Chris Baker reacted quickest to smash home the rebound from tight on the baseline.

From the restart, Yate were visibly fatigued after a tough first half on the defence in pleasantly warm weather, and Penarth were quick to take advantage.

Exploiting the spaces left by the home side, the Bears were able to move the ball from defence to attack with the minimal amount of passes and the goals soon followed.

Baker netted his second, again sweeping home from a tight angle after turning the ball over from the restart to score the goal of the game.

Shortly afterwards, a swift counter attack saw Andrew Willemite and Kidby link up well to leave the latter with another tap-in for the fourth. Baker then rounded out his hat-trick to move to the top of the goalscoring charts, before Laith El-Khatib pulled one back in his own bid for the trophy.

With the goals flowing, defender Marcus Powell saw his chance to sneak forward unnoticed and pop up at the top of the 'D' to sweep home over the sprawling keeper to net his first goal of the season and ensure that, in another goal-laden season, every outfielder found the net with the exception of captain Tom Haran.

The 7-1 margin of victory emphasised Penarth's superiority not only in the game, but also across the season as a whole, as they crowned their second successive divisional title in fine style.

SWANSEA CITY C 0, PENARTH B 2
The thirds completed their season on the road in Swansea and, having beaten the local side three times already this season, were hopeful of a comfortable end to the league campaign.

For the first 10 minutes or so, it looked like this was going to be the case but, as has happened in a number of fixtures this season, Penarth seemed to slow down in all aspects of the game, giving Swansea the possession and territory to create numerous chances and it was only bad finishing, bad luck and a couple of good saves from Jason Harris in the Penarth goal that allowed the visitors to keep a clean sheet.

Having weathered the storm, Penarth were able to turn the tables and snatch the lead in the final minutes of the half, a well-worked penalty corner routine resulting in a shot being blocked on the line by a Swansea foot.

The resultant penalty flick was ably despatched by Mark Harris, guesting as centre forward having kept goal for the majority of the season, to send the Bears into the interval with a slim advantage.

The second half provided a much more clinical performance from the visitors, as Richard Skone and Richard Cousins caused Swansea all sorts of problems down the right. The increasingly tiring home side also left space in the middle of the field, allowing Dave Thomas' midfield corps time to build territorial advantage and create the platform for many more Penarth attacks.

After a series of penalty corners went unconverted, the Vale side eventually made their dominance tell, with another break down the right ending in a Dave Watkins

shot that gave the Swansea keeper no chance.

At the other end, the Penarth defence continued to clear up the sporadic Swansea breaks with ease, leaving the match to end with a 2-0 scoreline that left the Bears with a record of 11 wins, one draw and just four defeats that saw promotion to De Cymru 2 confirmed with three weeks of the season remaining.

PENARTH C 0, SWANSEA UNIVERSITY C 4

Penarth C entertained runaway De Cymru 3 champions Swansea University in the final game of the season and found the opposition determined to go out on a high.

The students started like the undoubted champions they are, and Penarth were left chasing shadows for much of the opening period, so it was little surprise when the visitors took a merited early lead at the culmination of an excellent passing movement.

Rather than fold, the resilient 'C-Siders' forced themselves back into the game, with Phil Goode and the excellent Rhys Meddins featuring prominently.

Despite forcing a number of chances, however, the Penarth attack were unable to beat the Swansea 'keeper who was probably busier than he has been in any game this season.

Penarth's pressure notwithstanding, it was the visitors who next found the net, doubling their lead shortly before the break, but the 'C-Siders' were buoyed by their first-half performance and forced the students to defend deeper and deeper from the start of the second period, with midfielders Tom Griffiths and Tyrone Moore at the heart of things.

Again, Penarth forced numerous opportunities, but the excellent University 'keeper was determined not to concede anything and produced a series of excellent saves to deny the home forwards. With the home side reduced to ten men by Moore's enforced exit, the closing stages saw the students able to deliver the coup de gras when a fast breakaway left 'keeper Luke Williams and the back-tracking Morgan Salisbury with little chance of preventing a third goal.

Determined to salvage something to reward the quality of their play, and with the umpires having signalled two minutes remaining, the ten men threw everything forward, and it was something of an injustice that the students were able to give the scoreline a slightly more flattering look when they, once again, hit the valiant 'C-Siders' on the break.

The 4-0 result, however, did little to reflect the game played by the Penarth side, with man-of-the-match honours again going to Meddins, who performance was closely matched by both Griffiths and Salisbury.

The bigger result for the fourth XI, in their first season back in league competition, was coupling the brief of developing youngsters transitioning from youth to senior hockey whilst always being competitive in what was a fiercely-contested De Cymru 3 division.

Supported by a cohort of senior figures, the number of quality young players now coming through the ranks holds huge promise for the future of the club.

Although the GoCrea8 League season is now done and dusted, Penarth's first XI still have games on the slate, with the Conference North winners continuing the defence of their Welsh Trophy title by taking on Bridgend in Saturday's semi-final at the Welsh Institute of Sport at Sophia Gardens (4pm start).

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. When the regular season resumes, training will take place on Wednesdays at Stanwell School, with the juniors on the pitch between 6.15pm and 7.15pm and the seniors between 7pm and 8.15pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

CL

Late equaliser keeps Barry's title hopes on track, with six games to go...



James Dixon goes for goal.

BARRY Town United are gearing up for what could be a truly memorable month in their history, as their chase for a first Welsh League Division One championship since 1994 enters its final furlong.

Top of the table with 51 points from their 24 fixtures to date, Barry's final six games will span the month of April, kicking off with a trip to in-form Ton Pentre this coming Saturday (2.30pm).

The Bulldogs had been unbeaten in six before their defeat to Goytre United at the weekend and their previous meetings with the Town have often delivered in spades; few more so than a pulsating 4-4 draw at Jenner Park in February 2016, where a last-gasp equaliser came to Barry's rescue.

Ironically, there would be another slice of late drama at the ground this past Saturday, as Gavin Chesterfield's Town welcomed Nana Baah's Caerau Ely in a hotly-anticipated league encounter.

Watched by a crowd of 432, including a returning Terry 'the Bugle' Bullock, the Town commanded the first half at Jenner Park and would take the lead when man of the match TJ Nagi collected the ball on the cusp of the area, dropping a shoulder, cutting inside and firing a delicious effort into the top left corner.

Continuing to play some enterprising football in the glorious March sunshine, Chris Hugh and James Dixon both enjoyed opportunities to double the Town's advantage, while Nagi would demonstrate his worth at the other end, denying ex-teammate Curtis Hutson with a perfectly-pitched tackle.

Nevertheless, fourth-placed Caerau have

enjoyed a strong campaign of their own to date and the visitors hit back moments before half-time through Chris Quick, ensuring the neighbouring sides, who had drawn their previous encounter 1-1 at Cwrt-yr-Ala in November, headed in on level terms.

The second half saw the Cardiff outfit up the ante and their efforts were eventually rewarded when substitute Harry Short smashed home a wonderful long-range effort to attain them a 2-1 lead.

It was the first time Town goalkeeper Mike Lewis had been beaten in more than 400 minutes of play, though no-one could deny the quality of the hit that had finally broken his resistance.

With news having filtered through that title-chasing Goytre were winning heavily against fellow contenders Haverfordwest County, Town's attempts to mount a comeback were limited, with Caerau shrugging off an indifferent first-half performance to look most likely to win it.

However, with mere moments of this entertaining contest remaining, Barry reached deep into their bag of tricks to salvage what might prove to be an invaluable point, at a crucial stage in their season.

First, inspired

AC

Father and son team win the Chepstow chase

Vale trainer John Flint teamed up with his jockey son Rhys to land the principal race at Chepstow with his eight-year-old French-bred gelding *La Sacre*.

A 7-2 chance, *La Sacre*, won the £6,198 ECIC Handicap Chase by eight lengths and appears to be back to his best form.

At the previous Chepstow meeting on March 13, Flint saddled *Amateur*, winner of the National Hunt Flat race.

Brian Lee

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Finance provided by Renault Finance, PO Box 149, Watford, WD17 9FL. Subject to status. A demonstration may be required. UK residents only (excluding the Channel Islands). Over 18s. Based on 6000 miles per annum, excess mileage of 1p per mile. VAT. Maximum deposit of 4,000 for Clio & Captur and 50% for Scenic. *The 3-year plan covers the manufacturer's recommended maintenance programme requirements. The Service Plan does not cover wear and tear items such as tyres, brakes or water blades. Mileage and approval fees apply. For full servicing terms and conditions visit: www.renault.co.uk/serviceplan. Some restrictions apply to all new vehicles when ordered with Renault Finance by 31 May and registered by 30 June 2017. The 3-year service plan offer must be redeemed within 28 days of the vehicle registration date. Excludes Clio Renault Sport, Twingo and ZOE. Renault customers only. For full T&Cs visit: www.renault.co.uk/offers.

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*Car shown is a New Dacia Laureate TCe 1.25 4x2 at £13,350 including optional metallic paint. *Prices shown are manufacturer's recommended retail prices, available on featured new vehicles ordered and registered by 31 March 2017. Prices shown include delivery to dealer, number plates, 20% VAT, 12 month government road fund licence and £35 first registration fee.

On and Off The Turf with Brian Lee

THERE were plenty of thrills, close finishes and controversy at the well attended

Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Ystradowen in the Vale last Saturday.

In the opening 'Glamorgan Hunt Members, Subscribers and Farmers Race', last year's winner ItchyMcImScratch (Tom David) failed by a neck to beat Miss Claire Sherriff's Fraction Man who had been backed from 5-1 to 7-4 favourite.

However, the unlucky horse of the race was probably King Massini who was putting in a renewed challenge when unshipping Isabel Williams at the penultimate fence.

Fraction Man, a seven-year-old chestnut gelding, is trained by Gibbs' father David who said: "He is a very naughty horse at home and only Bradley dare ride him."

The Seven-Year-Old And Over Open Maiden Race was divided on the day and after the first division the best turned out Padre Tito's rider Bobby Thomas rode into the place reserved for the winner and many racegoers thought that 22-year-old Bobby had chalked-up his first win.

However, the judge had ruled that Edward Lean's well backed eight-year-old Essteepee had prevailed by a head.

Essteepee's rider Charlie Price, who rides out for Tim Vaughan, and who has made a name for himself in the world of Arabian horse racing, was not too sure that he had won either! "He kept trying to run out," said the promising 19-year-old who was chalking-up his first win between-the-flags.

Ben Jones took the second division on the always prominent eight-year-old chesnut gelding Mount Prospex which won by two lengths from Classic Hit (Richard Patrick). The winner is owned by Karen Williams and Eddie McGuinness of Abergavenny.

Carl Price's 11-year-old bay gelding Romeo Is Bleeding won the Glamorgan Hunt Club Members Conditions Race after Mary and Bill Evan's Superman De La Rue (James Bowen) had fallen at the last. "I think I had him beat," said Romeo Is Bleeding's rider Conor Orr, aged 21, who works full time for Llancarfan National Hunt trainer Evan Williams.

The 4-6 favourite for the race, Colorado Doc, who had wandered off before the start was ruled to have not come under orders yet some racegoers were adamant that it had.

However, one person down at the start told me: "Colorado Doc did not come under orders as he was not near the start when the starter raised the flag."

The Timico Mixed Open Race saw another close and controversial finish with Ken Price's eight-year-old bay gelding War Path winning by a head from Roger Wilcox's versatile PatrickTom Boru (Ben Jones) with the favourite Frelia (Bradley Gibbs) a further eight lengths away in third place.

The connections of PatrickTom Boru thinking their horse had won posed for a 'winners photograph' but this was before it had been announced that War Path was the one that had caught the judge's eye.

A delighted Lorna Brooke, who was having her first ride over the course, said: "I had him switched off throughout most of the race and he did it well."

Lorna, aged 33, who has ridden 11 winners under rules and around 30 point-to-point winners, was full of praise for the 'beautiful Ystradowen racecourse'.

Nine of the 14 entries went to post for the Restricted Race and local rider Byron Moorcroft notched-up his 10th winner of the season on Keiron Price's seven-year-old brown gelding Ramble On.

Handily placed throughout they finished five lengths ahead of Clive Banwell's Yeats Ace partnered by Bradley Gibbs.

Mr Price said that he will be looking for a right handed track for the horse's next appearance.

There was an exciting finish to the closing Four, Five And Six Year Olds Open Maiden Race over two-and-a-half miles in which the six-year-old Ann Scott, under west Wales' Jodie Hughes, came from nowhere in the closing stages to score by half-a-length from the pacemaking January Don ridden by Richard Patrick.

A further half-a-length away in third place was Milathlete (Wayne Maskill). Ann Scott is trained by hunting stalwart Simon Jones who runs a pet cemetery near Bridgend.

Jodie said: "I must have been about in fourth place jumping the last but she certainly ran on from then."

The Glamorgan Hunt held their first point-to-point on March 19, 1890. There were two races one for maiden hunters, the property of subscribers to the Glamorgan and Lord Tredegar Hounds.

The first was for horses not exceeding 15.2hh the minimum weight being 11st, 7lb; in the second race the riders weighed out at 13st.

The races were held on a Wednesday afternoon, and the riders weighed out in the outbuildings of Mr Ralph Thurston Bassett's farm at Crossways near Cowbridge.

Mr Bassett, who held the mastership of the Glamorgan Hounds, was a popular sportsman and was solely responsible for the existence of the Cowbridge Hunt Races that used to be held at Penllin Castle.

The course for the point-to-point races is said to have commenced at a point between Llandow and Stenbridge. Crossing the Clemenston Brook, it took a direction northward and turning right, and leaving Hilton Farm on the left, it was almost straight in line over the Pinklands, finishing at the Corrwgs.

The course which was mostly grass, was a stiff one and the distance about four miles. Victory in the first race went to Herbert Sarsfield Watson's Snitton who a month later landed a selling hunters' steeplechase at Cowbridge Races.

There were 12 starters for the second race (there had been 14 in the first) which was won by Captain Morgan Lindsay's Brunette. Mr Herbert Sarsfield Watson, the son of Mr Jonas Watson, a well-known Cardiff businessman, was a popular rider at local meetings and on several occasions won the Glamorgan Hunt Cup at Cowbridge Steeplechases.

The South Wales Daily News reporter did not seem entirely satisfied with the conditions of entry for these races.

He wrote: "When the conditions of entry were framed, the limiting of the animals' height to 15.2 was done in order to give the smaller animals, of which there are so many in the hunt, a reasonable expectation of carrying off the trophy, but the intention failed, because weight was not allowed for inches, as it should have been."

He went on to say: "The framing of these conditions did not allow a bona fide farmer to enter his horse in either races. Such a small courtesy would cost nothing and would cement many a friendship."

Captain Morgan Lindsay, later as Colonel Lindsay, trained many winners from his mountaineering training establishment at Ystrad Mynach and among those who rode for him were Fulke Walwyn, Evan Williams and Sir Harry Llewellyn.

TIM'S LINGFIELD WINNER
Aberthin's Tim Vaughan is known for saddling winners over the jumps but last Saturday his three-year-old TermsNConditions, ridden by K. O'Neill, won the Betway Sprint Handicap over six furlongs at Lingfield Park, beating the only other three-year-old in the race, Sir Harry Collins, by the shortest distance possible - a nose.

The third horse Major Muscari, ridden by Josephine Gordon, was only a neck away. TermsNConditions was returned at odds of 4-1.

The Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

FINALLY after two weeks of rain interrupted play and only a smattering of games, Vale football returned with a bang.

A full programme in Division One and Two, a couple of Premier games but it was Barry Cup semi-final day and that is where we begin!

The first of two semi-finals saw Vale United reignited a three season long rivalry with Barry Belgrade. United are on course for a first Premier Division title and Belgrade are pushing hard at the top of Division One.

Vale United continued their dominance with a convincing 5-1 win to book their second final of the season. Jack Dummett, Dan Hanson, Joe Williams, Jay Tominey and Alex Gregory sending Vale back to Jenner Park.

At the May 7 showpiece they will play Rhooose, who were victorious over Island Marine 3-1, Jack Butler, Josh Bryan and a Dave Bevan penalty sending resurgent, in-form Rhooose to a mouthwatering final.

In league action, while Vale were booking final places, the Premier Division had new leaders. Cowbridge Town hammered bottom side Masons Moving Group 6-1 to go two points ahead of Vale Utd but with the caveat that Vale have five games in hand.

Barry Athletic got their first league win in 2017, albeit having only played three games, as they dispatched Tynwydd 5-1 to move up to sixth with only four games to go. Connor Caton, Adam Taylor, Ben Jones, Andrew Colburn and Nathan Williams getting the goals.

In Division One, Dan Morgan (2), Linford Harris and Spencer Price scored as Barry Athletic B moved ever so much closer to the league title with a major 4-0 win over contenders FC Pumas.

Athletic B know that the league is in their hands, if they win their final two games then they will be champions.

Sully Sports B got back to winning ways, after a heavy defeat last time out to SP Billy, with a 2-1 success over Cardiff Airport B to go third with a game to go.

SP Billy kept the pressure on with a 4-2 win over Cadoxton Barry B to stay level on points with Sully but with a game in hand.

Elsewhere defending champions Cogan Coronation B played out a rare 0-0 draw with Cadoxton Athletic.

In Division Two, Cadoxton Imps made a

great stride towards the league title with a resounding 6-3 victory over second place Barry Saints, the result sends Imps seven clear with five games to play, although Barry Saints and Penarth Town B both have a game in hand.

BVFC stayed fourth after edging out bottom side Pumas B 2-1. Island Marine B stayed three points behind them with 3-1 victory over St Athan B, a first win in four for Marine B but St Athan B without a win in five.

Finally Rhooose B continued their recent upturn in form making in one defeat in their last six with a clinical 5-0 win over Barry Albion.

Next week, the games of the day are in Division Two, as third-placed Penarth Town B host league leaders Cadoxton Imps; in Division One Cogan play Barry Belgrade and in the Premier Division Island Marine play Penarth Town in an intriguing fixture.

Finally in the SWFA Intermediate Cup quarter-finals St Athan represent the Vale as they host Nelson Cavaliers of the Taff Ely and Rhymney Valley League.

HD

Sport students represent Wales in national championships

SAM CURWEN, who studies at Cardiff City Education programme, has qualified to represent Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) and Wales at the AoC Sport National Championships 2017, which take place next month.

Sam beat off stiff competition from colleges across Wales to win gold, which qualifies him for the national finals taking place at the University of Nottingham on April 21-23.

The AoC Sport national championships will have athletes competing for their region to win the prestigious Wilkinson Sword trophy.

Sam said: "I'm really pleased to have won the qualifying race to be selected to run for Wales and can't wait to get to Nottingham and run for my country."

James Young, CAVC head of sport, tourism and public services, said:



Sam Curwen (left) is to compete at the AoC Sports national championship in April.

"It is a fantastic multi-sports event to take place at the David Ross Sports Village, and we believe the standard of the facilities will provide students with an incredible experience. We could even see a future Olympic champion in action at the championships."

For more information about the AoC Sport National Championships 2017, visit www.aocsportchamps.org

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64 SKODA Octavia VRS 2.0 TDI CR Auto Estate In met-black, 14,000 miles**£15,995**

63 VOLKSWAGEN Tiguan 2.0 TDI Match Auto 4x4 In silver, 39,000 mile diesel**£14,995**

96 JAGUAR XK8 Automatic In met-green with cream leather, only 23,000 miles from new, superb example**£14,995**

59 BMW Z4 5 Drive 35i Auto In met-grey with leather trim, 59,000 mile convertible at**£13,995**

13 VOLKSWAGEN Passat CC Blue Motion-Tech 2.0 TDI Automatic In black, only 19,000 miles, superb example**REDUCED TO £12,995**

60 MERCEDES C180 Sport Auto In white, 36,000 miles, superb example at**£10,995**

10 LANDROVER Freelander HSE TD4 2.2 E In silver with black leather, sat-nav, pan-roof**£9,995**

14 VAUXHALL Insignia 1.8 SRI 5-Dr In met silver, 30,000 mile family hatch**£9,495**

64 PEUGEOT 2008 EVTi 1.2 Active Automatic In silver, 22,000 miles**£9,495**

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62 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.5 DCi Dynamique In met burgundy, 46,000 mile diesel 7-seater**£8,995**

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65 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 Limited Edition 3-Dr In red with black roof, 13,905 miles, 1 owner**£8,695**

15 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 TechLine 5-Dr In black, 26,000 mile family hatch**£8,495**

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62 VOLKSWAGEN Jetta 1.6 Diesel Automatic Blue Motion SE In met-grey, 55,000 miles, 1 owner**£8,495**

11 NISSAN Qashqai 1.5 DCi Accenta In met-burgundy, 47,000 miles diesel at**£8,495**

10 FORD S-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec Automatic In black, 68,000 miles, diesel 7-seater**£8,495**

14 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCi Dynamique Media Nav 5-Dr In silver, 39,000 miles, free road tax**REDUCED TO £7,995**

13 MINI One 1.6 In red, 31,000 miles, 1 owner with alloys, climate, pepper pack**£7,995**

62 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Zetec 140 5-Dr In silver, 53,000 miles, diesel hatch**£7,995**

62 CITROEN DS3 D Sport Plus 1.6 THP In white with black roof, 48,000 miles, full leather trim**£7,995**

12 MINI Cooper 1.6 In white silver with black roof, 23,000 miles**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £7,995**

12 VAUXHALL Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusive Diesel Estate In silver, 43,000 miles**£7,995**

09 MAZDA MX5 1.8i Roadster Coupe In true red, 48,000 miles, solid roof convertible**£7,995**

57 MERCEDES SLK 200 Auto In silver with red leather, 72,000 miles, convertible**£7,995**

15 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 3-Dr In red, 12,000 miles, under Ford warranty**£7,695**

13 PEUGEOT 3008 Aless HDi 5-Dr In met red, 29,000 miles**£7,695**

14 VAUXHALL Adam Glam 1.4 In very berry with cream roof, 25,000 miles, 1 owner, bluetooth, pan roof etc**£7,595**

15 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SRI Ecoflex 3-Dr In black, 23,000 miles**£7,495**

64 SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZL 3-Dr In black with white roof, 19,000 miles, 1 owner**£7,495**

63 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi Style-E In encre met with white roof, 52,000 mile diesel hatch, free road tax**£7,495**

62 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Metal 3-Dr In black, 26,000 miles, sporty hatch with leather trim**£7,495**

10 SKODA Yeti 1.2 TSI SE In aqua blue, 46,000 miles**REDUCED BY £500 TO £7,495**

08 BMW 320i M-Sport Coupe In silver, 70,000 miles with alloys a/c etc**£7,495**

63 RENAULT Megane 1.5 Diesel Coupe 'Knight Edition' 40,000 miles, free road tax**£6,995**

63 FORD Fiesta 1.5 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr In black, 56,000 miles. 1 owner, free road tax**£6,995**

62 SKODA Octavia 1.6 TDI SE Auto Estate In silver, 70,000 mile diesel at**£6,995**

61 FORD C-max 1.6 TDCi Titanium In silver, 69,000 miles, diesel practical hatch**£6,995**

60 PEUGEOT 5008 Sport 1.6 Diesel 7-Seater In met-grey, 58,000 miles**£6,995**

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64 SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZ3 3-Dr In white, one owner, 24,000 miles**£6,795**

13 PEUGEOT 208 1.6 Diesel Active E-HDi 5-Dr In silver, 36,000 miles, free road tax**£6,595**

11 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.6 TDI Bluemotion 5-Dr In silver, 76,000 miles, diesel at**£6,495**

07 NISSAN X-trail 2.0 Diesel Avent T2 In black, 90,000 miles, full leather**£6,495**

64 PEUGEOT 108 Active 3-Dr In red, 23,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax**£6,295**

12 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 VVTi TD 5-Dr Automatic In met-red, 60,000 miles**£5,995**

62 SKODA Rapid SETSI 5-Dr In white, 59,958 miles, very nice example at**£5,995**

61 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi Style In white with black roof, 73,000 miles, diesel, free road tax**£5,995**

08 JAGUAR X-Type 2.2 Diesel 'S' Auto In black, 54,000 miles, full leather etc**£5,995**

11 CITROEN C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi Exclusive In met-grey, 63,000 miles, diesel**£5,695**

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60 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Ecoflex Energy 3-Dr In red, 52,000 miles, one owner**£3,995**

60 CITROEN C1 VTR+ 5-Dr In red, 46,000 miles, low insurance and road tax**£3,995**

59 MAZDA 3 Sport 2.0 5-dr In black, sat-nav a/c etc, fantastic value**£3,995**

09 SEAT Ibiza 1.2S 3-Dr In nayara blue, 55,000 miles, low insurance**£3,995**

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58 TOTOYA Yaris 1.3 TR 5-Dr In red, 60,000 miles, very nice example**£3,795**

11 RENAULT Clio 1.5 Diesel Expression 3-Dr In met-blue, 53,000 miles, £20 road tax**£3,695**

10 HYUNDAI i10 Comfort 1.2 5-Dr In silver, 57,000 miles, £30 road tax**£3,495**

06 SAAB 93 Linear 2.0 Convertible (150) In black with cream leather, 66,000 miles**£3,495**

57 RENAULT Megane 1.5 DCi Dynamique 5-Dr In silver, 49,000 miles, diesel hatch**£2,695**



62 CITROEN DS3 D Sport Plus 1.6 THP

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Champagne on ice... AS BONUS POINT WIN PUTS TONDU CLOSER TO LEAGUE TITLE



Adam Harris scores a try.



ABOVE: Sam Graham and Aled Jones.
ALL PICTURES BY GARETH ANTHONY.



Josh Tatchell.

ABERAVON Green Stars certainly arrived at the office ahead of league leaders Tondy, and on a perfect day for rugby raced into an early 10-0 lead.

A penalty from scrum half Aaron Davies opened their account before a great move down the left saw wing Lloyd Lewis grab the game's first try, with Davies adding the conversion.

Some good handling through midfield brought Tondy's first try hooker Owen Bayliss which was converted by Josh Tatchell, another penalty from Aaron Davies made it 13-7 to the home side, before a Rhys Jones try on the stroke of half-time brought the visitors within a point.

The second half was a different ball game though, as Tondy not only arrived at the office, they had their

collar and ties on! First came a sensational solo try from full back Matthew Murphy; after collecting the ball from a loose kick, he engineered a clever kick ahead to collect and cross for the try the reliable Tatchell added the extra points.

Blindside Terry Saunders then grabbed a close range try, before a flowing movement from their own half saw second row Adam Harris sail over for a memorable try, but there was no denying try machine Sam Graham.

Some great interplay from the backs brought a corner try, and all tries were converted by Josh Tatchell for a final score of 40-13.

Tondy have the short journey up to Nantymoel next, but surely now the champagne must already be on ice.

MIKE SULLY

Athletic slip to loss against Quins

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC conceded their first league double of the season when following an earlier 9-7 loss to Aberavon Quins, the same side inflicted another narrow defeat – this time by 16 points to 13.

This left both sides in joint second place on 57 points. Trebanos blew the Division 1 West Central title race wide open with an away victory at leaders Bonymaen. Maesteg Quins are also very much in the mix with only four points separating the top five clubs in the division.

For the Athletic it was very much a glimpse into the future as they started the game with five of their current youth team players and ended it with seven of them on the field.

All the players involved full back Stuart Floyd – Ellis, half backs Dan James and Luke Bevan, centre Sam Richards wing, John Taylor and flankers Jeavon Bell and Ben Davies showed they have the skill and temperament which along with match experience can make them future fixtures in the senior first XV.

On a sunny afternoon, the Athletic kicked off with a very strong breeze behind them. Within a minute the Quins conceded a penalty 40 metres out, which outside half Luke Bevan sent high over the crossbar.

From the restart the Athletic were penalised inside their own 22 for not releasing the ball and their outside half Ryan Pugh levelled the scores.

The match was evenly poised throughout the first half with the Athletic failing to take full advantage of the wind, though on occasions Bevan did show he had the armoury to deliver very long touch finders. Bevan and Pugh again exchanged penalties.

It looked like half-time would produce a stalemate. However, with the final move of the half Athletic No 8 Jonathon Howard who had been outstanding with his ball carrying beat four defenders before looping a long pass out to Dan James.

The youngster with an eye for the try line and the speed to match weaved in and out of defenders to dive over wide out and become his side's joint top try scorer with seven touchdowns.

Bevan's conversion gave the Athletic a much needed 13-6 half-time lead, with the Quins having the benefit of wind advantage in the second half.

The Quins took early control in the second half and their pressure told in the 50th minute when their No 8 Connor O'Callaghan took an inside pass to cross under the posts. Pugh levelled the scores at 13-13 with the conversion.

A series of forward drives with Howard, Griff Davies, Jonathon Stoker and Nathan Holman prominent took the Athletic from half way to within five metres of the try line before the Quins forced the movement into touch.

Youth wing John Taylor came on for his debut. He linked well on two occasions with full back Ellis to show his speed and was twice halted just short of glory.

The Quins were then awarded a long-range penalty which Pugh had no difficulty in kicking, giving his side a 16-13 lead with 15 minutes remaining.

The Athletic with Howard to the fore mounted a furious effort to win the game, but both forward drives and slick back movements failed to breach the visitor's defence.

With two minutes remaining the Athletic were rewarded for their efforts with a kickable penalty to level the scores, but unfortunately on this occasion the ball and the Athletic's hopes were just wide of the mark. All the Athletic had to show from both Quins' games were losing bonus points.

The next two Saturday's see the Athletic journey up the Llynfi Valley for tough fixtures against Maesteg at the Old Parish on April 1, and Maesteg Quins on April 8. They then conclude their season with two home games against Kenfig Hill and Trebanos.

The club would like to thank regular sponsors J.H. Apsee & Sons Removals & Storage for sponsoring the fixture.

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC SECOND XV 12, KENFIG HILL SECOND XV 24

Having suffered a heavy away defeat to Mid Glamorgan Premier League Champions elect Kenfig Hill second XV, Bridgend Athletic second XV produced a much more purposeful performance before going down by 24 points to 12. They scored two tries to the visitors' four.

The Athletic's tries were scored by lock Ashleigh Harris and centre Chris Walker, with Scott Jones converting one of

the tries.

The Athletic back row of Rhys Evenden, Jacob David and Liam Griffiths were the pick of the Athletic pack, while all the backs half backs Nick and brother Scott Jones, centres Luke Hollyman and Chris Walker, wings Tom James and Rob Wilson and full back Owen Oats played well.

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC YOUTH RAGS 20, PONTYPOOL UNITED YOUTH 14

Bridgend Athletic youth second string, 'The Rags', played heroically to overcome a giant Pontypool United pack at a neutral venue Mountain Ash and reach the final of the Welsh Youth Bowl Cup, running out 20-14 victors.

The team are virtually all 17-year-old first season youth team players. A huge Pontypool pack with 'Pooler' chants ringing in their years dominated possession.

Although outgunned up front the youngsters defended for their lives and what possession they had used their speedy backs to cross for two superbly worked tries by centre Joe Patterson and outside half Kaine Woolerton. Scrum half Matthew Hobby had a perfect day with the boot converting both tries and landing two penalties.

The final will be on April 8 against either Treorchy or Llandovery youth.

This team will follow the current first string youth side and compete next season in the Osprey's A League, and have every chance of following their example this season in winning that league.

AB

Porthcawl RFC bag promotion with dominant win over Banwen

IN their penultimate match of the season, and the final one at home, Porthcawl secured a automatic promotion, notching up their 10th league win in a row and with one match remaining, they will watch intently how second-placed Bridgend Sports play out their final five matches, to decide who takes the spoils as champions.

On a brilliantly sunny afternoon, the Seaweeds comfortably accounted for a spirited Banwen outfit, racing into a healthy first half lead, before the visitors got some deserved second-half points on the board.

Within five minutes of the kick-off, some great attacking play and superb hands from full-back Scott Govan helped left wing Jake Thomas in at the corner for 5-0 with Josh White's touchline conversion attempt being held up in the wind just short.

Porthcawl's pack had been ruthless from the outset and put enormous pressure on the visiting eight with a series of driving scrums and eventually notching a penalty try as the resistance crumbled. White converted for 12-0.

With skipper Richard Hnyda leading the way, and No. 8 Tom Butcher and James Burge-Davies, rampant in making ground, Banwen really were struggling to deal with a home eight on top of its game.

Following further pressure within the visitors' half and with the end of the first quarter approaching, scrum-half Connor Rees, took advantage to drive over for the Seaweeds' third try, converted by White from near touch and at 19-0 the home side were cruising.

There could have been further scores, such as Porthcawl's dominance, however several passes went astray with opportunities begging.

Porthcawl's backs were managing to get the ball wide and when a move started well inside the home half, snappy passing saw the ball reach right wing Lloyd Rosser-Stanford 30 metres out.

He put back his head and flew over at the corner for the fourth try and 24-0; White's touchline conversion hit the post.

Good defence enabled

Banwen to stem the tide in the final minutes of the first half, with an uphill task facing them after the break.

As can sometimes happen following a frenetic first period, the match lulled into a period of sterility in the third quarter, with Banwen putting up stubborn resistance against the continuing home attacks, which often came to grief with poor final touches, when perhaps a little more control and patience might have paid off for as Porthcawl went for bonus points.

However, it all came good again because following another mighty forward surge and from a strong Seaweeds' scrum, replacement wing David Hughes showed his able footwork, by skipping through two tackles for a smart try, goaled by White and at 31-0, the match was effectively in the bag.

Sam Parker came on for Porthcawl at full-back for Govan and Tom Lodwig at flanker for McNally respectively, to add fresh legs for Porthcawl with prop Matt Cook shortly afterwards replacing the again outstanding Anthony Griffiths at tight head, who put in another great shift.

Banwen, who by now seemed to be very tired, suddenly sparked into life and deservedly got points on the board at

last as the home side's defence splintered, a clearing kick was charged down, and flanker Jordan Griffiths nabbed an unconverted try for 31-5.

As the match entered the final flourish, it was the visitors who again took advantage, by latching on to a loose ball in the home 22 for centre Johnny Phillips to snatch the try, converted by Ieuan Williams, to conclude the afternoon's scoring at 31-12.

So, a rather muted end for the home supporters to enjoy, however, the good work was already done and Hnyda led his promotion-winning side from the field to generous applause and to record a great season's achievement.

The role and influence of the captain and head coach Rhys James cannot be understated in Porthcawl's first promotion for many years and brings deserved success for them personally.

The match was well-officiated by Bryncethin referee Mark Jones, who added to the occasion by letting the match flow and he earned respect from both sides for his empathy with efforts to play constructive rugby.

Porthcawl end their campaign on Saturday at Tonmawr, seeking the bonus point win that they hope will see them win the division.

PF

Bridgend Bridge Club results

The results for recent events at Bridgend Bridge Club are:

Wednesday, March 22: First, Debbie and Simon Richards; Second, John Evans and Steve Burgoyne; Third, Bill Turner and Linda Pinnock. The winners on handicap were Debbie and Simon Richards.

Thursday, March 23: First, John Henson and Chris Rawlings; Second, John Evans and Teresa Griffiths; Third, Maggie and Richard Ashpole. The winners on handicap were John Henson and Chris Rawlings.

Friday, March 24: First, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; Second, Jonathon and Simon Richards; Third, Irene Thomas and Bill Turner. The winners on handicap were Vida Halford and Bill Turner.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday

and Friday evenings, but not Good Friday, at Noltan Church Hall. Play is scheduled to start at 7pm, so it helps if players arrive 10 minutes early to enable a prompt start.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, again at Noltan Church Hall there is a gentle bridge session; advice is available on the bidding. Master Points are awarded whilst playing in a relaxed atmosphere where players enjoy their bridge.

Lessons for beginners and for those coming back to the game take place on Thursdays at 11.30am; there is usually a seminar at 1.30pm.

For further information about the club contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 1968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

DN



GOALESS DRAW UNDERMINES WALES' WORLD CUP QUALIFYING HOPES...



After the Irish stalemate, a Bale-less Wales must beat Serbia to keep dream alive



Joe Allen looks for an opening. ALL PICTURES BY HUW EVANS SPORTS AGENCY



Wales will be without Gareth Bale (third from left) for their next game - a must-win clash with Serbia.

FOUR matches into World Cup qualifying group D and for Wales, the group looked a little trickier than perhaps they and their supporters were hoping for.

Having breezed into the group with 4-0 home win over Moldova, and then earned a battling and precious point away in Austria, Chris Coleman's men no doubt looked at the next two fixtures, at home against Georgia and Serbia, quietly confident of taking two wins which would have put them on 10 points and in a pretty good position.

As it is, the two games saw Wales draw, the two points taking them onto six points with last Friday's opponents Republic of Ireland sitting top of the table on 10 points, and Serbia second with nine points.

This made the evening game at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin all that more important for Wales, knowing that win and the race to Russia would be back on, draw and there would still be hope, but that defeat (and a win for Serbia away in Georgia) could mark the death knell in a group where runners-up

position means a potential play-off to qualify for the World Cup.

The importance of the fixture was massive, but that was before the FAI decided to play mischievous games with their Welsh counterparts – reducing the away ticket allocation to just over 6,000 (in a stadium that fills over 54,000) and banning Wales' supporters' band, The Barry Horns, from bringing their instruments into the stadium.

Coupled with Irish forward Jonathan Walters' rather dismissive reaction to the recent documentary *Don't Take Me Home*, which charted Welsh football's steady rise up the world rankings and their Euro 2016 semi-final spot ("I haven't seen it and I won't be watching it either. It doesn't interest me one bit"), and all of a sudden there was a little more niggles to the game.

With Wales having last beaten the Republic way back in 1992 (via a goal scored by Mark Pembroke), and the Irish having lost several players through injury during the week, there was pressure on both sides as the teams kicked

by GARETH JAMIESON

off, especially as earlier in the evening Serbia had come from behind to win in Georgia, putting them a point clear of Martin O'Neill's team, and five clear of Chris Coleman's men.

The ensuing 90 minutes of football proved to be a dour affair, with the Republic seemingly happy to play on the counter-attack and not force the issue too much, with Wales taking the front foot but all too often (as has been the case this qualifying campaign) lacking the incisiveness and cutting edge to fashion many clear-cut chances.

The final score of 0-0 was a result that suited the hosts, drawing them level with Serbia on points but falling second on goal difference, while the visitors are now four points adrift of the top two at the halfway stage of the qualifiers.

Up next for Wales is probably their biggest test yet – and arguably the one that will have the most impact upon their dreams of reaching the World Cup finals for the first time in 60 years.

Facing Serbia away in June would be tricky enough, but it's a test that becomes that bit trickier with Gareth Bale suspended after an

arguably soft booking for a challenge on John O'Shea that was less a tackle and more an attempt to connect with the ball from a cross, and Neil Taylor also missing having picked up a red card.

The Aston Villa defender's challenge on Seamus Coleman was lacking in both timing and malice, yet his lunge which left the Irish defender in severe agony and resulted in fractures of his tibia and fibula was only ever going to receive one punishment, and Taylor will now miss the Serbia game at least.

So at the halfway stage, it's time for Wales, and Chris Coleman, to take stock and see where the second half of the campaign goes from here. To say Wales are out of the race for Russia isn't true yet, but turning this run of draws into one of victories is imperative, beginning with that Serbia fixture.

A win there (coupled with a Republic of Ireland draw or defeat against Austria) would throw the group wide open, with the Republic and Serbia on 11 points and Wales and Austria on 10 points, leaving Wales with a home game against Austria, then two

away games against Moldova and Georgia, before a final game clash with Ireland on October 9.

Wales will need to take at least 12 points from their final five games to be in the hunt for qualification, and ideally six of those points will need to come from the games against Serbia and Ireland to stop their momentum and peg back the points difference.

But despite this forward armchair planning, what Wales must do is take each game as it comes and judge where they are afterwards. This group is only going to get tighter and there are likely more twists and turns before we reach the end of it – Wales need to try and ensure these twists don't set them back any more.

Quite what Coleman will do in Serbia remains to be seen, and it's far too early to consider picking a team when you have three more months of football and the vagaries of form and fitness; however a Bale-less team will have much to prove, both to themselves and the detractors who claim that without Bale Wales are not a threat, something the likes of Aaron Ramsey and Joe Allen in particular will be keen to disprove.



Manager Chris Coleman had another frustrating night.



Neil Taylor's challenge wasn't malicious - but he couldn't complain about being red-carded.

Whoever lines up in the red shirts will face a similar situation to that of this game – playing away to a team who will be quite content to soak up the pressure and avoid defeat, a tactic that many teams have used against Wales since their successes in qualification and at the European Championships themselves.

What Wales will need to do by then is find a game plan that forces them onto the front foot and into the driver's seat; minus Bale the cutting edge needs to be found, but in a way this could be to Wales' advantage – after all, teams are used to facing Bale and

nullifying the areas where he can have the most impact. Without him there may be uncertainty in the Serbian mindset which, if Ramsey and Allen are on song, could be exploited.

At the halfway stage there is still all to play for in this qualifying group, but failure to beat Serbia could be the end

of Wales' World Cup hopes for another four years.

However, to paraphrase Chris Coleman in the aftermath of that inspirational win against Belgium last summer, Wales should not be 'afraid to fail' in Serbia – it may just be the start of another famous Welsh footballing story.



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